SUNDAY
November 23, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
30 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960

Vol. 56 • No. 47

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

REGAL RIDERS

Making of the equine warriors

How horses of the President's Bodyguard are trained for India's ceremonial parades

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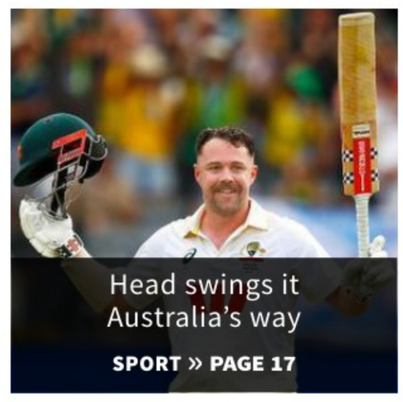

Head swings it Australia's way

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Siddaramaiah meets Kharge on resolving impasse

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday and held talks on resolving the impasse over the much-talked-about power-sharing pact that was apparently arrived at during the formation of the government in 2023. » PAGE 6

Cash van theft: Constable among 3 plotters held

BENGALURU
On Saturday, the police arrested a police constable and a fleet manager of CMS company and its former employee as key conspirators in the the ATM cash van robbery case. . » PAGE 3

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MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES
SRI SATHYA SAI BABA » 4 PAGES
(A SPACE MARKETING FEATURE)

At G-20 summit, Modi proposes new initiatives on health, skills

Summit held in South Africa for first time, marked by U.S. boycott; leaders adopt G-20 declaration on climate change

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a plenary session on the opening day of the G-20 Summit in Johannesburg on Saturday. AP

Global parameters of growth need to be reconsidered, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, addressing the G-20 summit in Johannesburg, where he proposed new initiatives to balance growth and promote the political philosophy of "integral humanism". Leaders also adopted the G-20 declaration on the first day of the two-day summit, calling for strong measures to counter climate change.

Mr. Modi also held talks with a number of leaders present, announcing a new Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership after a trilateral meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. The initiative will deepen cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, resilient supply chains, clean energy, and artificial intelligence between "democratic partners across three continents and three oceans", Mr. Modi said in a post.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Ukraine, allies scramble over U.S. proposal on ending war

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukraine and its European allies scrambled on Saturday to come up with counter-proposals after U.S. President Donald Trump gave Kyiv a tight deadline – November 27 – to approve a deal to end the war that accepts some of Russia's hardline demands.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has pushed back against the 28-point U.S. plan. Russian leader Vladimir Putin has welcomed the proposal, which would force Ukraine to give up land, cut its army and pledge never to join NATO. French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer met on Saturday on the sidelines of a G-20 summit.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

COP30 ends with plans to curb fossil fuels, halt deforestation

Jacob Koshy
FRANKFURT

The 30th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP30) in Belem, Brazil, drew to a close late on Saturday with COP President Andrei Lago giving a personal commitment to get countries to deliberate upon two "road maps" to end deforestation as well as a path towards ending fossil fuel use by countries.

"As [Brazilian] President Lula [da Silva] said at the opening of this COP, we need road maps so that humanity, in a just and planned manner, can overcome its dependence on fossil fuels, halt and reverse deforestation and mobilise resources for these purposes. I, as President of COP30, will therefore create two road maps – one on halting and reversing deforestation and another on transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable manner," Mr. Lago said, while gavelling a consensus agreement, called the Global Mutirão: Uniting humanity in a global mobilisation against climate change.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

PES UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS 2026

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Here's the most important point to note – as per the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, the net weight of ***1 litre of sunflower oil must be exactly 910 grams.*** The gross weight, including the pack, should be 918 grams (approx.) depending on the size and gauge of the pack.

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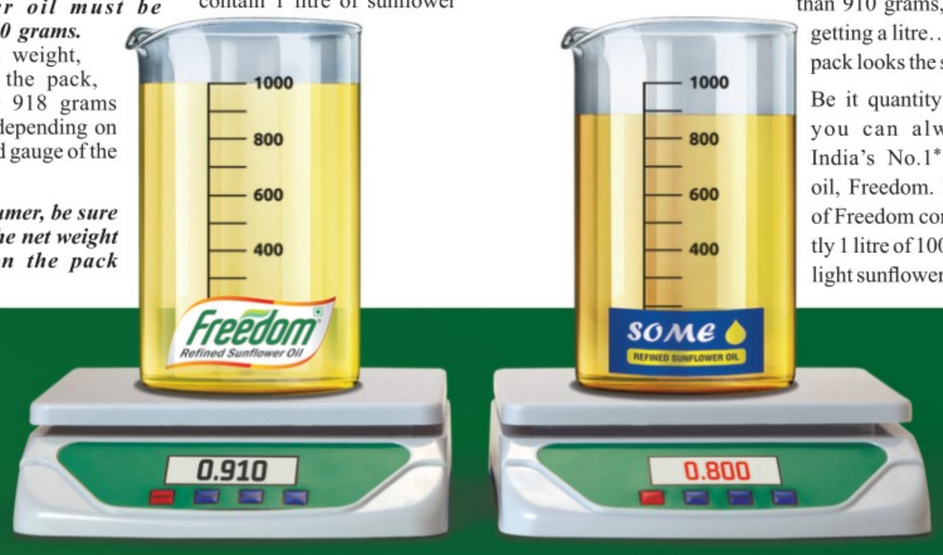
Since most packs of various brands look similar in size and shape, it's easy to be misled that all of them contain 1 litre of sunflower oil. But this is not always true. So do not assume the quantity of oil just by the size of the pack!

Remember to check for either the volume (1 litre) or weight (910g) printed on the pack. If it says anything less than 910 grams, you're not getting a litre… even if the pack looks the same.

Be it quantity or quality, you can always trust India's No.1* sunflower oil, Freedom. Every pack of Freedom contains exactly 1 litre of 100% pure and light sunflower oil.



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*"Gemini Edibles & Fats India Ltd" claim as per NIQ Retail Index data for period MAT Feb'25 for the All India (U+ R) market in Sunflower Oil Segment, Refined Oil Consumers Pack (ROCP) Category.
• Apart from using healthy cooking oil, Freedom recommends regular exercise & balanced diet for good health • For exciting recipes, please visit www.freedomhealthyoil.com

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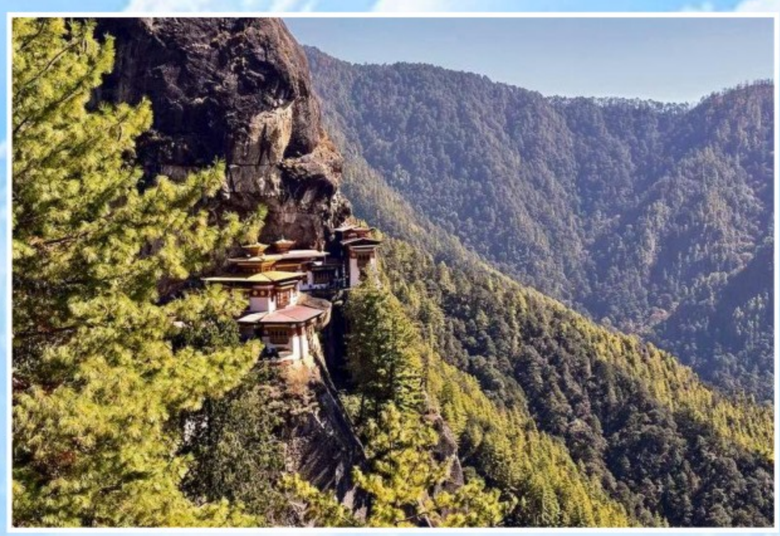

Sacred perch: Tiger's Nest Monastery, the source of Bhutan's Vajrayana Buddhism, is on a cliff at more than 10,000 ft above the mean sea level.

Kindred soul: A Buddhist woman waits for her companions to join her from inside the prayer festival venue.

Sartorial assistance: A participant at the Global Peace Prayer Festival helping another drape the *kabney*, a silk sash worn as a part of the traditional male attire in Bhutan.

A prayer for world peace

Among the hush of the Himalayas, monks from myriad nations gathered as one and wove together hope through hymns; a thousand voices of devotion in Bhutan carried the promise of peace for a world aching for calm

Song and spirit: Buddhist monks pray collectively for world peace and happiness for all sentient beings.

Rutajeet Karmakar
hriktrick@gmail.com

Bhutan, an island of tranquillity in troubled South Asia, organised the first-ever Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF), attracting more than 50,000 Buddhist lamas or monks from 20 countries, including next-door neighbours India and China.

The highlight of the 16-day festival from November 4 to 19, coinciding with the 70th birthday of the Himalayan country's fourth king, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, was the unprecedented convergence of spiritual leaders from three distinct schools of Buddhism – Mahayana, Theravada, and Vajrayana (practised in Bhutan, India, and the Tibetan region).

Beyond Buddhism, Hindu priests from India and elsewhere across the globe were given space for a special prayer session.

The Centre for Bhutan & Gross National Happiness Studies and Bhutan's Central Monastic Body, which steered the festival with help from India in "cash and kind", want the peace prayers to be truly global by involving leaders of other faiths for this event.

It will be planned annually with an aim to minimise global conflicts and increase happiness of all sentient beings.

The GPPF was a display of colours, motifs, spiritualism, community discipline, and an emotional attachment to Bhutan's royalty at 2,334 metres above sea level, with the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, the country's capital, as the hub of the festival.

The Bhutanese government's confidence in undertaking the event on a grand scale stemmed from similar festivals held annually across the country's 20 *dzongkhags* (districts) to pray for world peace and the healing of humanity.

The Central Monastic Body appreciated the help from the Government of India to organise the GPPF and transport Lord Buddha's relics from the National Museum in New Delhi to the Grand Kuenray hall in Thimphu for public veneration from November 12 to 18.

Blessed sight: The Jabzhi Dhoechog, a temporary structure adorned with offerings for global peace and happiness, faces the Buddha Dordenma, a gigantic statue of the Shakyamuni Buddha on one of the highest points around Thimphu.

Classifieds

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

BEAUTIFUL, CARING 31, 170cm, UK Master's, UAE–based professional. Affluent family. Seeks compatible groom. Any location. Call/WA 9345634365.

SEEKING ALLIANCE From Jehovahs Witnesses / Christians For Our US Returned 32/164 Daughter. +919962010999

ISSULESS DIVORCEE 50 years ACS. Working in MNC. Seeks Suitable Bride Groom.CNB. Contact: 9360167989

DIVORCEE

BEAUTIFUL, WARM 36, 160cm, well–educated professional (MNC). Affluent business family. Seeks kind, compatible groom. Any location. Caste/lang. no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

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TAMIL MUSLIM Dr. 27/165 cm (Gen. Surgery 3rd year) seeks Dr. Groom / Group I Officer / Elite Grooms. Parents Drs. Well settled family. Own House in Trichy, Chennai, Shops, Modern Rice Mill Ct: 98658 10041, 86374 44451.

DENTIST MDS, fair/33yrs/ 161cms Hindu affluent family Seeks Doctor/ well educated/settled Handsome groom from affluent family Ct: 9841077367

Hindu Nadar, 31, 165cms very Fair, Doctor, Cardiology Fellowship. Hailing from highly affluent family. Currently working as a Cardiologist. Instructor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Lives in US. Seeking an upstanding, well qualified, Professional, preferably a Doctor Groom working in USA. Ct: +91 9791994449 vsajsr@gmail.com

PARENTS of Hindu Nair Girl MBBS(26 years, Chothi,163) presently doing internship in Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Medical College, Delhi seeks alliance from professionally qualified and well settled groom, preferably Doctors. Father's Contact no.9810196302.

NAIDU 91 Born Dr. Bride Simham / Magam MBBS, MD. Seeking Suitable Doctor / Equalant Groom. 8072214843

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

HINDU NADAR 26 yrs, 168 cm, Civil Judge Seeks Bridegroom Below 30 yrs from Same Profession / Group I / Group II Officer in Tamilnadu Only. Ct.9710209761 , 9840425972

MALAYALAM

MUSLIM DOCTOR girl, 29/165, Gynaecologist, preference PG Doctors. Ph: 9846015055, Trivandrum.

ALLIANCE INVITED for a beautiful Ezhava Hindu bride, 25 years, Height 157cm, London–educated, post graduate, employed as consultant at leading MNC in Bangalore. Seeking a well settled, educated groom with good professional background from a respectable family. Ct: 9880220199, 9742221346

PARENT OF Menon/ Nair Girl 26/159/ Uthram, B.Com, (CMA), working in Norway seeks professional, well educated, shudha Jathakam/ half dosham same caste groom from respectable Chennai based family. Ct: 7358751704

GAZETTED OFFICER in Kerala Govt. Female Aged 52 yrs, Divorcee without issues. Seeks suitable alliance without issues. Email I'd: nairgkb@gmail.com

VISWAKARMA GIRL, elite family, 28/152 cm, Pooyam, MBA, Operations Analyst, MNC. 9447000579.

THE HINDU

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NRI

PARENTS FROM Vegetarian Hindu Pillai Well Settled in Dubai Seeks Alliance for their Only Fair 26 yrs Daughter Educated BE, MSBA & Employed in USA Suitable Bride Groom Equally Qualified & Employed in USA. Ct: Chandrasekaran 9840297122

HINDU NADAR Groom (USA) Wanted for Bride: Hindu Nadar 27Yrs B.Tech, MS(US), Working in US, Elite Business Family. Ph: 96599-91119 / 98423-44133.

TAMIL

ROMAN CATHOLIC Nadar 23/167 B.Arch, working as Junior Modular Designer in Coimbatore Seeks suitable Boy with O Negative Blood Group, Native of Kanyakumari. Ct: 94421 62159.

CSI CHRISTIAN, Very Fair, 42/ 165cm SC/AD, MSc (Nut & Diet) Any CSI/AG/Pentecost are Welcome. 9840169607

CHRISTIAN, 30, MS, 50 lakhs, VIP. 8138900487

CHRISTIAN, FAIR, 31, MS, 45 lakhs, MNC. Contact 8137003550

RC,ASST Prof. PhD, in Univ of Madras, Chennai 46/150 cm, brown complexion, upper middle class, divorcee seeks suitable Christian groom. Send profile by W.app only- 99620 09303

ADIDRAVIDA PR CSI Christian, 28/150, MBBS, Medical Officer Pvt.hospital seeks suitable Groom. Ph: 9943055896

GROOM WANTED CSI Nadar, 26yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family. Need Bangalore & Abroad Groom. 9841329471

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

CHRISTIAN, 29, ME, Engineer. PH: 8137003549.

CHRISTIAN, 30, Banglore, MS, VIP. PH: 8137003550.

CHRISTIAN,26, ACCA, NRI, 10 crores. PH: 8138900312.

TVELLALAR GIRL 34/160cm, Rishabam Rasi Kirthigai, P.G, Employed Chennai. Ct: 94455 05491

NADAR 33/5'6" MBA working in Chennai Elite Family Seeks qualified Groom working in Cennai,CNB. 9962991979

LOOKING FOR a life partner from a family with both modern and traditional values for our daughter. She is a B.Tech (EEE), MBA(MM) graduate and currently pursuing German language. Residing in Vellore, Age (28 years), Height (175) , Fair and Good looking girl. Caste : Hindu Kuala /Udayar, Astrology details : Rasi–Mesham; Nakshatram–Ashwini & Lagnam–Mithunam. Contact : 099946 24941

HINDU NADAR– Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 US Bank/IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40L PA Own House.Seeksblw 37yr. Call / WA : 9442126376

MUDALIYAR, 27YRS, MBBS(UK), Well Educated Family background, Seeks suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

AGE 55 Retd Government Employee No children.Seeks I want upto 65yrs Bride Groom Govt Employee. 8056288863

HINDU, NADAR 32 Bank Officer in Chennai Aswini Mesham. Bridegroom Working in Chennai & Tiruvallur Preferred.Ct:9841103770

SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employeed bridegroom 9498313625

HINDU, 32, caste no bar, VIP, NRI, 10 crores. 8138901281

HINDU, 32, Caste no bar, NRI, VVIP. 8138009235

DOCTOR PARENT, Arunthathiar (SCA) seeks alliance for daughter, MSc computer science, 26 years, from Professionals or any degree with stable job. Contact: 8754769483

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar, 27yrs, B.Tech, Working in Central Govt, Affluent family in Chennai Ct: 6385293227

TAMIL

TAMIL YADAVA 33yrs Doctor (Gynaecologist) Looking for a Broad minded well–educated & well–settled Hindu groom with good family values Caste no bar Contact: Father – 9444414013

HINDU, 26, Canada, BE, caste no bar, 10 crores, private. 8138900412

NAIDU 33/158CM Divorced short lived B.Tech French Professor, PR Canada applied Seeks Suitable Groom without Children Caste No Bar 9444255509

NAIDU 47/MCA/MNC, Chennai seeks a suitable groom from the same caste. Email– pattabin@gmail.com

OUR DAUGHTER 26 yrs / 164 cms, BA LLB (Hons) MA (Education) London Educationist & Legal Consultant Seeks Doctors, Entrepreneurs, IAS, MNC from Reputed Institutions, Affluent. CNB (Tamil/Telugu). Ph: 7395869218

HINDU, ME, private, 50 lakhs, fair. 8138901281

MUDALIYAR/PILLAI PROF qufd working groom wanted for 37, MCA Fair Hastham, well settled Chennai 8220757159

HINDU/SC AD, 30 years, 5'4" MCA Team lead @ an MNC, 14LPA, owns a new 2BHK Flat in Chennai, Simham Magam Bride (same caste) Cont: 9840365908

WELL SETTLED Doctor, MD (Pathology) , DCH, 40 yrs, Mudaliyar, Divorcee without child seeks well settled groom. CNB. Contact: 8056868090

GROOM WANTED SC (AD), 27yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Well Educated Family background in Chennai. Contact: 6385293227

RICH MUDALIYAR, 30yrs, B.Arch, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9176491777

VADAGALAI KOUNDINYAM Mrigaseersham (Dec 2001), Height 167cm, B.Tech (IIT Madras) Employed. Seeking an equally qualified Vadagalai groom with traditional values and a modern outlook Contact:shriboovarahan@gmail.com 9884056708.

GROOM WANTED CNB, 31yrs, BE, Divorce, No issues, Industrial business background in Chennai Ct: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 26/161 Beautiful, BE, MS, Pro Manager, AIRBNB USA, 125000. USD.PA,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIAR 25, M Tech 162cm Good Looking Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB.Contact:8778514465/7200866346

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COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

29 YRS,178CMS, B.E. Software,Chennai, Rs.10L p.a well-settled, seeks employed Christian bride. Ct.9443099271

COSMOPOLITAN

SEEK A PG doctor / qualified, tall, fair, virtuous bride for a DM doctor (Tamil /v. fair/ kongu vellala/ Dec–91/185 cm/ hastham) wkg in Bangalore, from similar castes. Language no bar. Parents: 93425–29547 / 90721–18800

DIVORCEE

DIVORCED THONDAI Mandala Mudaliar Boy issueless age 43 star Anusham M.Tech working in Chennai as Manager needs suitable bride. Ct 7824940197

IYER DIVORCEE boy 51 high salary seeks graduate girl without issues caste no bar Ct: 9841942915

DOCTOR

Hindu Ezhava handsome 67 yrs/ 173 cm, teetotaler/ healthy life style, Super Speciality Doctor in F/T practice in North America. legally divorced, father of 3 children (not living with) looking for a mature educated caring lovable Hindu lady as partner. whatsapp - 9447580176 (8 pm -11 pm).

MALAYALAM

PROTESTANT US Based Engineer 30/ 178cms, Seeks any Suitable Christian Alliance. Kindly Ct. 9791683272

PUNJABI

ASST. MANAGER,HPCL,GOVT JOB,25 LPA, Born 94,5'10",Father PNB ret. Manager,Elder brother US,Schedule Caste,9465857232

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN Udaiyaar, Advocate, 27, Tiruchy Settled Seek Working / Qualified to Work, Good looking Bride. 9047736933.

CSI NADAR, 30yrs, MBBS, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9841329471 / 9380791999

TAMIL MUSLIM, 31/170, BE (Mech), employed in reputed Auto OEM, Chennai, Seeks suitable Tamil Muslim bride, Contact: 9444297042

SC AD, Age 29, M.Tech, working in MNC, Chennai seeks suitable employed Bride. Preferable RC Christian Bride. Contact: 8939177665

CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC Fernando 25 / 175 cm Well Qualified, God Fearing boy, Handsome Aristocrat Family, Seeks Qualified Fair Good Looking Elite Family. Contact: 9025608385

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT– 9500188067

CHRISTIAN, 27, M.Arch, Private. PH: 8138901294.

TAMIL HINDU Chettiar BE MS 180 cm/ 27 very fair slim working in australia seeking bride–9444706114

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

PILLAI/ MUDALIYAR. B.Tech. MBA. HR. IT. Chennai. Poorattadhi, 30 / 167 Cm. Non Veg. Well Settled, Educated Family. Seeks Software / HR / Finance / CA Professional. 9444367697

GAVARA NAIDU, 40/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Engg), Chief Engr. MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First Marriage seeks Naidu Bride. Ct: 9487272897

TAMIL HINDU SC AD 42 years BE, MBA, BANK(PSU) AGM Kochi Branch Legally divorced no child seeks Affectionate and Compatible Bride between 36 and 41years /divorcee without child. Ct: 88703 15039

HINDU–BE/SWE/172CMS/25LPA/34YRS/AYILLAM– KATAGAM. Settled in Bangalore, financially stable and educated .Seeking Bride from educated and decent family. Con No 9845401461.

GAVARA NAIDU Affluent family Chennai 29/165 ME Design Engineer in MNC and Own Business, Rental income also, Star Thiruvonam Rasi Magaram, CNB. Call: 9841097110

HINDU PILLAI, B.Tech 42/184cm Divorcee Mutual No issue CNB Director Software Co Bangalore 30lacs/am. Needs Suitable Educated Bride. Contact : 90803 87866 Or famm0814@gmail.com

1985 BE Mudaliyar Chennai Asst Manager, Private, Decent Background Seeks Bride. Ct 8610518808, 9952010118

HINDU AD 42yrs Young energetic Looking Central Govt Gazette Officer Rs.2Lakh pm expecting Educated Girl with Good Family. CT: 94435-50645.

NADAR 45 B.E 9994351766 Carleton IISc https://ingeniousdesigntech.com https://tamilfilmakerspro.com

MUDALIYAR/ HARDWARE Engineer(29) Pvt Co,US. Seeking engineer bride same community.9840366919/ 9840414987.

HINDU IYER – Kanva Gothram, 1975, Revathi, teetotaler, unmarried businessman from Kanniyakumari District. Seeks Iyer/Iyengar Bride from Tamil Nadu or Kerala. Unmarried or Divorcee (without issues) acceptable. Ct: 98428 22128.

WANTED HINDU Nadar Tamil 27yrs MBA doing business Chennai seeks educated girl –9884588199

HINDU, 31, VIP, caste no bar, 20 crores, BE, Business. 7356483111

HINDU, CASTE no bar, NRI, VVIP, 26, 40 crores. 8138900312

HINDU, DIVORCED, VVVIP, NRI, Caste no bar. 8138900412

SC HINDU Mithunam 32/180 BE, MBA Smart IT Chennai seeks Homely, Educated, Mingle with Join & Well settled Family. CNB 9789920881/ 8778546961

REDDY,HINDU 33/5.8",B.E,CHENNAI based,work Blore MNC,40 LPA, Divorced, well settled, seeks educated bride frm good family,CNB, CT– 9123515822

✔ **MUDALIAR, 27/**BE,MS(USA) Comp Engg,157cm,Poosam,USA Employed, well settled family seeks bride. 9962481161

HINDU MUDALIAR Groom, First Marriage, 47, height 170cm, BE, B'lore, 9740900969, velansrdaksh@gmail.com

BE IIT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC, in Hyderabad Sal 90 lacs seeks Bride from same or Allied Castes Tamil,Telugu. Ct: 7382620365

BRIDE WANTED Caste No Bar 29yrs B.Tech, MBA, Divorce, Having Own complex, Malls, Marriage Hall, Rich & Affluent family in Chennai 6385293227

TAMIL

MUDALIAR M.COM 47 1st Marriage 20 Laks PA. Own House Chennai. Seeks Mudaliar 1st Marriage Girl 9444001582

BRAHMIN IYER Boy,31/170cms, Magam, B.Tech, Working in TCS, Chennai Seeks Brahmin Graduate Girl 9940352807

✔ **PILLAI 38** B.E.,(IT Profession) Rs.1 Lacs pm Caste No bar seeks good looking Bride. 9578966577 / 9994169345

MUDALIYAR WELL settled parents seek educated bride for their Engineer son Chithrai 38/181 own business Chennai Ph:9884452926

BRIDE WANTED SC (AD), 28yrs, M.Tech, BS(IIT), Well Educated Family background in Chennai Cont: 6385293227

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 27yrs BE, MS (UK), 2L/pm Elite business family in Chennai 9380791999/ 9841329471

GAVARA NAIDU B.E., 26/170/30K Fair Employed Seeks Suitable Same caste Educated Bride. Call: 9486724872

AGAMUDAIYAR 29/172cm Employed Birla Opus 60k Divorcee Seeks Suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. Call: 8608863164

HINDU, 30, caste no bar, business, BTech, VIP. 8138900316

HINDU, 31, caste no bar, BE, Business, 30 crores. 8138900537

HINDU, 29, Divorced, caste no bar, Royal, MBA, 10 crores. 8137003549

HINDU, CASTE no bar, MD, Doctor, rich and affluent. 8138900312

ARCOT MUDALIAR MBA IIM 170/Sep 88 Thiruvathirai (Clear Horoscope) Unmarried Handsome Fair Teetotaller 62Lakhs, Chennai. Seeks suitable match.CasteNoBar. 9940434055, 9742010729

G.GOWRISHANKAR, 36/5'9", B.Com, DAE, working in London as Supervisor in Visual Effects,earning 80 LPA. Parents intercaste Hindu. Expecting Bride willing to work in London.Contact: 9677090227

HINDU, VANNIYA Kula Kshatriya, 29, 171, B.E, M.S – (Poland) IT, Operations Manager– Poland. Sal: 20L INR. Seeks bride from Bachelors/ Masters, Age 23 to 27, Preferred working. Ct: 9080998896/ Whatsapp: 9791051098. Email: kishorekrazz96@gmail.com

✔ **Mudaliar 36** Yrs/ 174 cm, Chennai, IT Emp seeks Hindu Girl Contact: 9790877562.

MUDALIAR 31/185 Handsome, BE, MS, Project Engineer, IBM USA, 155000. USD.PA,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIYAR CA Sal 24L Age 40,Never Married Kettai Own House 6acre Land Sub Caste ok 9677622641/ 9962294842

PILLAI 35/173 Moolam BE Civil Own Company Chennai seek qualified Pillai Mudaliar Bride.Geetham 9884858014

PILLAI 45 Remarriage 15years son 170cm BTech Ms Chennai seeks graduate CNB Bride Geetham 9884858014

TAMIL MUDALIAR, BE MBA, Fair, 35y, 175cm, MNC, Lead Consultant, Coimbatore. 15 LPA. Seeks Good Looking Educated bride. Ct: 99440 74364

MUDHALIYAR, B.E. Age–34, Ayilyam, Australia, 8L P/m, Own House, 15 acre Land Sub Caste ok. 73054 60763

HINDU, 27, MS, 50 crores, any caste, royal. PH: 8138900312.

HINDU, 29, caste no bar, NRI, 10 crores, divorced. PH: 8137003551.

VANNIAKULAKSHTRIAR Groom 43yrs, Divorced shortlived no issue. B.E, M.B.A(UK). Working in IT Company Chennai. 15laks/PA Contact: 9944928521, 9487935521.

✔ **AGAMUDAYAR, HINDU,** 30/180cm, Good–looking, MS (CSE), High–earning IT CEO from Affluent, well–settled family in Chennai. Seeks Educated bride from a well–settled Tamil family with similar background (CNB). Ph:7845821205

Iyer 27 Years Viswamitra MBA HDFC Hyd 8 Lpa seeks Brahmin Girl - whatsapp 9491627972

TAMIL

IYER / Avittam 1988 B.Com / MBA Working - Chennai seeks pure Veg Working bride. Contact: 6374043306.

✔ **HINDU, 40,DOCTOR, first marriage seeks any degree, pure vegetarian girl.c:9384448388**

VADAKALAI Iyengar, Bharathwajam, Punar Poosam 46/168 MSIT - IT Vice President MNC 32 Lakhs PA never married seeking unmarried Girl in any sort of Vegetarian back ground. Send BHP to rajeshvasan1979@gmail.com Mob: 7395989198.

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

Mudaliar SWE BE PGPML Team Lead 35/170 seeks SWE BDS Dr Bride willing to relocate in Bangalore Phone 9444176384, uus236@gmail.com

Christian, Vellalar, 28yrs/180cm, B.Sc Viscom, Chennai well settled boy seek Suitable Educated Bride. 94445 57751

HINDU Pillai Mudaliyar 37/180cm MCA, Cluster Manager in Hinduja Fin, Seeks suitable bride. Ct : 9790596388

Pillai, 32 Years, BE MS-PhD-IITM, 50L p.a., Upper Middle Class, 174 cm, Fair, MNC Bangalore, Seeking Good-looking PQM, CNB, Ct - 9840161742

✔ **CASTE NO** BAR, Fair, Pretty Match – Working / Not Working, Veg, Graduate / Diploma Holder from Cultured Background (Poor/Middle Class Family Fine), Between Age: 34 – 42, For Smart, Pious Brahmin Palakkad Iyer Boy 170 Cm, Handsome, Looks Much Younger, Teetotaller, Post Graduate, Well-Placed with Good Earnings, Own House & Car. No Dowry. WhatsApp: 09028 225 299. Plz Email BHP: smswed@aol.com

TELUGU

M.COM, CA CHENNAI Gavara Naidu 1996 born170 cms seeks educated Bride9444049457/vthayalanacs@yahoo.co.in

NAIDU 31YRS BE MBA,Own constructions, Elite business family in Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9176491777

NAIDU BALIJA / Kavara. Sub Sect ok. MBA (UK). NRI (DUBAI). Height 5'.10. 35Yrs. Medium Brown. 7550245841

✔ **WANTED BRIDE: For handsome & humble fair, 30 yrs, 168cm Telugu boy only child from affluent Hyderabad based business family. Educated in Switzerland & India boys parents belong to forward & backward castes. Seeking well educated girl from any caste from similarly well settled business or professional family call 9059380447 Email: smy101070@gmail.com**

ALLIANCE INVITED for a well–settled Engineer/MBA groom from Chennai. Seeking a bride aged below 40 years, belonging to the Kammanaidu community, qualified as Doctor (Medical / Dental) or Engineer / MBA. Contact: 8778796515. akrwindmill@gmail.com

SISTAKARANAM /PATNAIK Boy, Age: 41/160cms Working as a Network Engineer in Hyderabad, 18.53 PA, wanted Hindu Bride, Caste No bar. Whatsapp: 9995666132

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 30, 158 cms, ME, Software Engg. Lives in Australia. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from equivalent community, relocatable to Australia. Contact: 6366448343

KONGU VELLAL GOUNDER, 24, 165 cms, Working Professional, MBA from IIM. Lives in Bangalore. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

KAMMA, 25, 170 cms, MBBS, Pursuing PG. Lives in Tiruppur. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community, preferably from Kongu belt. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

VANIYA CHETTIAR, 26, 180 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 27, 175 cms, MD/MS. Lives in Chennai. Family of Doctor. Looking for a like minded and well educated Doctor match from Nadar community. Contact: 6366448343

GAVARA, 26, 173 cms, MBBS, Pursuing Education. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated Doctor match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

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COSMOPOLITAN

SMART, KIND 30, finance professional. UK–educated. Affluent, cultured family. Seeks compatible bride. Caste/lang no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

HINDU GIRL, around 22, sought for a rich handsome boy, UK raised, 26 years, 172 cm, Keralite Pillai / Nair, MBA (USA), currently visiting India. Please call: +971507744192

DIVORCEE

DIVORCE 43, Hindu Govt Gazetted officer, seeks suitable educated bride caste no bar Ct: 63808 39406

SMART, SOFTSPOKEN 49, 179cm, highly–educated (top–tier BE/MS/MBA), successful, US–based strategy consultant. Seeks compatible bride. Religion/lang. no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

ENGINEER

CHRISTIAN GIRL 35 years engineer working in MNC as an executive well settled at chennai wanted working engineer bridegroom not married below 40 years from a decent christian family–cont 9445931257

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

Alliance invited for a well-qualified, 29-year-old, 5'7" boy, serving as an Indian Foreign Service officer. Seeking alliance with a well-educated,Civil Servant girl (IAS/ IFS/ IPS/ IRS & allied services) /Group A & B officers of GOI. Caste no bar. WhAp 9871256251, 9235563771

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

TAMIL

CANADIAN CITIZEN Christian Bride 29 yrs, 159cm, working in a public company & Seeks Family–Oriented, born in Christian, Canadian or US citizen who values family and mutual respect. Age 30– 35 and professional Groom. Email profile and photo to: rvjplanning@gmail.com, 9677181606

CHRISTIAN, 26, M.Arch, Private, 50 lakhs. 8137003550

CHRISTIAN, 32, NRI, VVIP, MS, 50 crores. 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, 28, NRI, 20 crores, MNC. 8138900487

Christian Vellalar 27/165cms, MSC , DMLT, (PhD) working in Chennai MNC, seeks educated bride Ct: 98405 88808

PILLAI, SOZHIA Vellalar 40yrs MBA, Manager, Pvt. 5Lpa, Divorcee, seeks suitable bride. CNB. Ct: 9952362396

TAMIL

MUDALIAR 30/160 Remarriage Ayilyam BArch Rich Pondy seek Er, Dr, Business Equal Status Geetham 9884858014

SOZHIYAVELLALAR PILLAI Age 30 BE (CSE) Working in Pvt Sector Chennai, Seeks Groom Preferable from Pillai/Mudaliar Age 30–33, BE Working In IT Field Employed in Chennai/ India/ Abroad. Ct: Gowdhamann 9342276143

TAMIL IYENGAR Girl 27yrs B.Tech MBA. Seeks Suitable Groom From any Brahmin Preferably Iyengar. 9444237295

HINDU NADAR, BE, 29/160, Executive - MHA, Central Govt officer, seeks well mannered groom below 32yrs from respectable family, employed in Central govt sector - grade - A, RBI / NABARD / IFSCA / SEBI or Civil Services - IRS belonging to same caste, Ct: 90957 35700

MUDALIAR (CNB): 24/ V.Fair, MBBS, Doctor, Father doing Real Estate, Jewellery Business, Construction, Chennai, Seeks groom – Business / Doctor. Contact: 8925019776

TAMIL

SC / ST COMMUNITY Girl (Hindu) 30/155cm B.Tech (Chemical Engineering) seeks Groom from State Govt. / Central Govt. / Pvt. Organisation. Contact: 99692 28297 / 98196 30507

TELUGU DEVANGA Chettiar, Coimbatore, 34/175cm. Civil engineer with Master Degree, Managing Parents Company Affairs, Seeking Groom with Nagadosham. 9894702231 / 9380882648

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Seeks Bridegroom (unmarried), aged 36-40 years, Educated, Good looking Groom (Reputed Business in Tamilnadu) for Hindu Tamil Chettiar traditional girl(unmarried), 1989, Hastham Kanni Rasi, daughter of reputed Jewellery business family in Tamilnadu. Suitable person can send details along with horoscope
WA: 94421 10063

TAMIL

HINDU, 28, widow, Rich, BA, 10 crores. PH: 8138900412.

HINDU, 24, Rich/affluent, 100+c. PH: 7356483111.

TELUGU

NAIDU, 26YRS, B.tech, MBA, Rich & Affluent family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

RICH NAIDU, 27yrs, CA, Well Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9962791888

44 Yrs /165cm/SWE/Bengaluru. OC/ Caste no bar. seeks Engineer/Doctor/ Professional Groom. Ct: 9182734077

BALIJA NAIDU Age 53 unmarried +2 Working in Private. seek Suitable Groom Caste No Bar Ct: 7397329382.

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM Slim Fair Good Looking B.Tech.IT 25/ 5.4 Working MNC. Seeks Compatible Religious Match from Educated Family 9840037042

URDU

SMU 41/180 divorcee issueless well settled professional in Canada seeks educated girl single/ divorced issueless below 38. Ph:9840038542

URDU MUSLIM Age 28, Parents Looking Alliance for Son. Business in Chennai Well Settled Family. 9444011292

SUNNI MUSLIM Groom wheatish, Slim 27, 5.8, B.Tech, Own Business 1.5L+pm Seeks Bride Slim Fair from Educated Religious Family 9840037042

MARRIAGE BUREAU

Brahmana Sabha (BSPD) free matrimonial service invites tamil brahmins above 35yrs to register at 9489482860

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

Regal readiness: Royal guards gearing up for a parade.

Festive weave: Monks and volunteers prepare a ceremonial scarf as part of a rite to welcome religious heads.

Massive gathering: Devout Buddhists from 20 countries converged at Thimphu's Changlimithang for the prayer festival.

Musical interlude: Members of the royal band take a break from the rehearsals to welcome dignitaries.

Constable among three key plotters held

Three more accused arrested in Hyderabad. The daring daylight ATM cash van loot was one of the sensational crimes in the city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It took a team of 200 police personnel 54 hours to crack one of the most sensational daylight ATM cash van robbery cases that took place on November 19.

On Saturday, the police arrested a police constable and a fleet manager of CMS company and its former employee as key conspirators in the case.

The core conspirators were identified as Annappa Naik, J. Xavier, and Gopal Prasad, who were apprehended, and a substantial portion of the stolen cash, amounting to ₹5.76 crore, was recovered.

Hours later, another team of police arrested three more accused from a lodge in Hyderabad. The accused, identified as Naveen, Nelson, and Ravi were tracked down through CCTV footage which finally confirmed their presence while they were checking into a lodge.

The police also recovered ₹53 lakh from their possession, taking the total recovery in the case to ₹6.23 crore.

A team, led by inspector Ninganagouda and sub-inspector Kishore, traced the trio to Hyderabad, where they had taken shelter after the heist. The accused were being brought back to Bengaluru for further interrogation.

With the latest arrests, the number of accused held in the case has reached six, while two more suspects are at large. Police teams have intensified efforts to track down the absconding accused and recover the remaining ₹67 lakh.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, while congratulating the team and announcing a reward of ₹5 lakh, said that efforts were on to track down the remaining accused.

He said that the heist was meticulously planned and was a near-perfect one, which was cracked in a record time.

On November 19, around 1.20 p.m., CMS reported that a currency chest van carrying ₹7.11 crore had been hijacked near Siddapura Lalbagh road by a gang posing as RBI officials.

The gang intercepted the cash van and took two security personnel in their car on the pretext of inquiry, while another accused boarded the cash van and asked the driver to drive towards Dairy Circle flyover.

He later stopped the vehicle near the flyover, took the cash box at gunpoint and escaped, while the other accused dropped the security guards and cash custodian on the way and fled from the scene to join the other accused with the cash box. The police got information about the robbery one-and-a-half hours later due to confusion and lack of coordination among the staff, which was being probed. This helped the accused to escape from the city after changing vehicles with fake licence plates.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh looking at the looted cash which was recovered in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

How it unfolded

- On November 19, around 1.20 p.m., CMS reported that a currency chest van carrying ₹7.11 crore had been looted near Siddapura Lalbagh road by a gang posing as RBI officials in a car with a Govt. of India sticker.
- The gang intercepted the cash van and took two security personnel in their car on the pretext of inquiry, while another accused got into the cash van and asked the driver to go towards Dairy Circle flyover.
- He later stopped the vehicle near the flyover, took the cash box at gunpoint and escaped, while the other accused dropped the security guards and cash custodian on the way and fled from the scene to join the other accused with the cash box.

Challenges in the investigation

- Multiple stops were made in CCTV blind spots
- No mobile phones were used during the operation
- The gang communicated in multiple languages to mislead investigators
- Several vehicles were used, with frequent changes in registration plates

Challenges

The robbery was executed with meticulous planning and almost no operational slip-ups, said the police. Multiple stops were made in CCTV blind spots. No mobile phones were used during the operation. The gang communicated in multiple languages to mislead investigators. Several vehicles were used, with frequent changes in licence plates.

The stolen currency was not serialised, making tracking difficult. Early media reports based on unofficial inputs affected sensitive parts of the investigation.

"Despite these hurdles, the Bengaluru Police cracked the case rapidly through coordinated teamwork and intensive technical analysis," Mr. Singh said. A massive multi-layered probe was launched, with teams comprising 11 police inspectors, two Assistant Commissioners of Police from the South Division, along with six police personnel from the Central Crime Branch.

Technical and field leads were pursued across Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, with some teams extending operations to Goa.

Over 30 persons were questioned. CCTV footage, vehicle movement patterns, and local intelligence were analysed continuously.

Within 24 hours, the police had identified the suspects and the vehicles used in the heist, the officials said.

Breakthroughs

Three accused were identified and detained within 54 hours of the crime and ₹5.76 crore of the stolen cash was recovered within 60 hours. A vehicle used in the operation was traced and seized. The gang had around six to eight members who were involved in planning, execution, and movement of the stolen cash.

The police teams are making efforts to trace the remaining accused in multiple States to recover the remaining amount.

'Black sheep'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh appreciated the police team work for cracking the case, he bemoaned that one of the accused is a police constable, Annappa Naik, serving in the Govindapura Police Station.

Naik was said to have played a key role in supervising the entire operation. The incident needs serious introspection and his background and activities were being verified, the Commissioner said.

The other accused are Xavier, 37, a former employee of CMS who was in touch with the staff and knew the inside out of the company, and Gopal Prasad, 36, a fleet manager.

The trio were allegedly drinking partners and hatched a plan three months ago roping in many others for the job. The accused did a recce to plan how to execute the operation and escape routes, said the police.

Loopholes

The CMS company, which is dealing with crores of rupees of transactions every day, does not follow safety measures despite a set of guidelines issued by the RBI, the probed revealed.

The guidelines on the deployment of staff, training for the security personnel, background verification, and GPS tracking have been grossly violated, the police officials said.

Action sought

"We have prepared a report in this regard and submitted to the authority seeking action for violating the guidelines," Mr. Singh said.

CEO of BPO firm abducted for ransom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a late-night operation, the Southeast Division Police rescued the owner of a BPO company in Koramangala who was abducted by a gang posing as police officers and extorted ₹18.90 lakh from him.

Eight persons, including a police constable serving in the Kolar district, have been arrested.

The incident took place around midnight on Friday when the accused barged into a call centre operated by Pavan. They claimed to be police personnel conducting a cybercrime inspection.

The BPO, which works with US-based clients, functions throughout the night. According to police, the gang accused the employees of cyber fraud, threatened them, and forced Pavan into a vehicle on the pretext of taking him for inquiry. Instead, they drove him to Malur, where he was held hostage for nearly three hours. The suspects demanded money, and when Pavan was unable to withdraw cash, they forced him to transfer ₹18.90 lakh into certain bank accounts they provided to Pavan.

Meanwhile, employees at the call centre grew suspicious alerted the police. Pavan also managed to send a distress message. Around 3 a.m., the city's emergency helpline 112 received the complaint.

Police teams tracked the movement of the accused. All eight accused were arrested, and two cars used in the crime were seized.

APPOINTMENT

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DHARWAD
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Advt. No.: IITDh/Admin/SR/40/2025-26 date 14th November 2025

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The **Last Date** for submission of application is **14th December 2025 up to 17:00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Registrar

How a police constable turned into a key conspirator in ATM cash van looting case

Imran Gowhar
BENGALURU

The sensational ₹7 crore ATM cash van robbery case in Bengaluru has taken a dramatic turn with the investigation revealing that the mastermind behind the crime was a police constable.

Annappa Naik, attached to the Govindapura Police Station, has been identified as the key conspirator, according to investigators.

Sources said that the manner in which Annappa came under the police radar was as surprising as the revelation itself. "His oversmartness and excessive politeness ultimately exposed him," said a police official.

Suspicious conduct

The sources said that on the day of the robbery, multiple checkposts were set up across the South and East divisions of the city, with police stopping and inspecting every vehicle. Annappa, who had previously worked with the crime team at the Banaswadi Police Station, arrived at one such checkpost – despite having no duty there.

On the day of the incident, Annappa showed up at one of the checkposts that was set up to check vehicles, despite having no duty there

He approached the head constable on duty and started inquiring about the robbery. He specifically asked whether the getaway vehicle had been traced and even showed a photo, asking if the viral image circulating online was genuine. He also monitored wireless communications at the spot.

Sensing something odd, the head constable questioned him, asking why an officer from another station was present at that location.

The police personnel at the Banaswadi station were allegedly already familiar with Annappa's questionable conduct in earlier instances. His presence at the checkpost, coupled with past suspicions, raised a red flag. Officers began to consider whether Annappa himself could be involved in the robbery. Immediately, the information was relayed to the shift officer at the Govindarajanagar Police Station. It was then confirmed that Annappa was neither on beat duty nor officially assigned any task at that time – deepening the suspicion.

Interrogation

The sources said the police kept a close watch on his movements and noted several unusual behavioural patterns. Annappa was soon taken into custody for questioning. After interrogation, he reportedly confessed to his role in the robbery. His call record details proved his links to Xavier, a former CMS staff.

The breakthrough proved critical for the investigation, which had been struggling for leads. With the constable's confession, the mystery surrounding the high-value robbery finally began to unravel.

Employees' Enrolment Campaign launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has announced the Employees' Enrolment Campaign (EEC)-2025, a special compliance window notified by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The scheme enables employers to voluntarily declare and enrol eligible employees who were excluded from EPF coverage between July 1, 2017 and October 31, 2025.

Deadline

The campaign will run from November 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026, with no declarations accepted after the deadline.

Declaration period

Under the scheme, the employee's share of contributions is waived for the declared period if not previously deducted, while employers are required to remit only their share along with interest and administrative charges. Damages are capped at ₹100 per establishment across EPF, EPS and EDLI.

Civic polls: Aspirants back in action

But uncertainty continues over new wards, reservation roster, and whether elections will be held at all in the next few months

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Many former councillors have begun their voter outreach programmes through Rajyotsava and Sabarimala events, says a BJP ex-councillor. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

For five years now, when there was no elected council, every one had been out of action. But the prospect of civic polls being held shortly in Bengaluru has brought them back in action.

"Many former councillors have begun voter outreach programmes through Rajyotsava and Sabarimala events, the flavours of the season. Distributing books to students, ration, printing calendars with the name and photographs of aspirant councillors are preferred ways to reach voters," said N.R. Ramesh, a former councillor from BJP.

As the number of wards have risen from 198 - when elections were last held in 2015 - to 369 now, and two new political parties Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) will be in the race for the first time, there are hundreds of new aspirants eager to the enter the fray.

"Earlier, we used to always face the problem of disgruntled rebels. But with the number of wards almost being doubled, we hope everyone will get a chance and there won't be disgruntlement this time," said Abdul Wajid, a former Congress councillor.

However, uncertainty and confusion still reigns over new wards, reservation roster, and whether elections will be held at all in the next few months. New wards and their boundaries have reset the board.

But aspirants are still waiting for the ward reservation roster to finally choose the ward they want to contest in. "Our candidates have already begun work in their wards. But we have also told them to be ready to contest from adjacent wards if the reservation roster throws a spanner in the wheels," said Pruthvi Reddy of AAP.

The State government has recently committed before the Supreme Court to notify the reservation roster by December 15.

Uncertainty

Padmanabha Reddy, a former councillor from BJP, said even during the previous regime, wards were delimited, reservation roster finalised but elections not held. "We are not sure elections will be held until they are actually held," he said.

This uncertainty pervades across party lines. "We hope the Supreme Court will force the government to hold civic elections. But if someone challenges ward delimitation or reservation roster in the court like last time, elections would be further delayed. We have seen how such legal challenges have been deliberately used to put off elections," a senior leader from the city said.

"Congress is not confident of a clear victory. In such a scenario, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who holds charge of the party and Bengaluru, is unlikely to hold civic polls when he is making a bid for the post of the Chief Minister. An upset result in Bengaluru will hit his chances as well," said a BJP leader, who did not wish to be named.

Meanwhile, all political parties, including the ruling Congress, have formed committees to oversee civic polls in Bengaluru. BJP and JDS will be contesting in alliance and in several areas, flex and banners in the name of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have emerged, indicating a meeting of minds at the grassroots level.

Residents of Anekal taluk to stage protest on November 29

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of Residents' Welfare Associations, civic groups, and farmers, under the banner 'Anekal Taluk Citizens' Protest Committee', has announced a roadathon and a protest demanding better roads in the taluk on November 29.

Health issues

"The condition of roads in the area are so bad that we are having health issues like back aches, and accidents almost everyday. The roads are not even fit for walking, leave alone being motorable," said John Athaide, a resident of an apartment off Heelalige Road.

Rekha, another resident, said, "She met with an accident six months ago while trying to navigate a bad stretch of road while returning home after dropping her children to school. "I had to take bed rest for two months," she said. Ms. Rekha also pointed out to another case in her apartment complex and alleged that ambulances refused to come to their community due to the bad condition of roads and a senior citizen died at home.

Petitions

Parjoth Pai, a resident of the same area, said that despite several petitions submitted to bureaucrats and elected representatives, there was no difference seen on the ground, forcing them to take to the streets.

On November 29, a large number of residents of communities living off Heelalige Road, Sampige Nagar Road, Singena Agrahara Road, and Anantha Nagara Road will march on the bad road stretches and later petition the tahsildar demanding immediate repair.

BSWML pins high hopes on waste collection kiosks to clean up Bengaluru

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The semi-automatic waste collection kiosk is a modern-day replacement for the large cement rings that were once a common sight across the city. FILE PHOTO

In a fresh push to tackle the city's garbage hotspots, 500 additional garbage collection kiosks are likely to be installed across the city by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), which will be sponsored by a people's collective.

Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), BSWML, told *The Hindu* that the collective is keen on funding the initiative, which is seen as a major step toward eliminating black spots in the city. "We are currently in talks with the collective to decide on the approach," he said.

Effective measure

This development comes a month after the BSWML, in collaboration with a multinational company and an NGO, installed a semi-automatic waste collection kiosk in Adugodi, southeastern Bengaluru. These kiosks are modern-day replacements for the large cement rings that were once a common sight across the city.

People used to dump garbage inside the rings, which eventually led to challenges like overflowing and spillage.

Bheemesh, an official from the BSWML, explained that near Koramangala's Regional Passport Office, several problematic and persistent black spots have now been reduced following the installation of the kiosk.

"That specific location was a hotspot that had turned into a major dumping area. We are now seeing several residents handing over their garbage directly at the kiosks," Mr. Bheemesh told *The Hindu*.

Placing high hopes on these semi-automatic kiosks, the BSWML plans to install 60 booths of its own across strategically identified areas in the city. This will be in addition to the 500 kiosks expected to be sponsored by the collective.

Reappearance

Mr. Bheemesh explained that the BSWML has compiled a list of areas where black spots reappear despite regular clean-ups and repeated warnings. For example, several sites near the Banashankari Temple in south Bengaluru are long-standing black spots that authorities have struggled to clear, even after implementing various measures.

Officials have studied the reasons behind the recurrence of these black spots and the causes of dumping in specific locations. Based on these insights, an action plan has been drawn up to determine where kiosks should be installed.

Additionally, areas with irregular waste collection, narrow roads, or those vulnerable to becoming black spots will be prioritised for kiosk installation.

For now, the 60 kiosks being installed directly by the BSWML are funded through the existing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike grants.

In the future, the agency plans to involve Corporate Social Responsibility funds. According to the BSWML officials, each kiosk requires around ₹2.5 lakh annually for operation, excluding the installation cost, which is estimated at ₹1.5 lakh. The installation expenses include construction, fabrication, and setting up of the kiosks.

"We need at least one person to manage each collection kiosk since it is semi-automatic. The salary for this staff member, along with booth maintenance, will cost around ₹2.5 crore in total annually," Mr. Bheemesh told *The Hindu*.

The initiative to eliminate black spots comes in response to the city's poor performance in the latest Swachh Survekshan rankings. Since the rankings were announced in July, the BSWML has introduced multiple measures to improve the situation.

The department has advanced the mustering time to 6 a.m. for better waste collection coverage and launched the 'Kasa Suriyuva Habba' campaign, which returns illegally dumped garbage to source households, and new corporations are frequently organising mass cleaning drives. Recently, the BSWML also announced cash rewards for individuals who report litterbugs.

BGS Utsav and Founder's Day celebrated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust celebrated BGS Utsav and Founder's Day here on Friday. Speakers highlighted the significant contributions of Balagangadharanath Swami. Shivarathri Deshikendra Swami, president of JSS Mahavidyapeeta, praised Balagangadharanath Swami as both a philosopher and visionary, credited with establishing numerous institutions.

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

पत्र संख्या–PIN-PISTON-2025-26-02 दिनांक 22.11.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy Chief Mechanical Engineer/Block& Engine., BLW, Varanasi acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work: **S.No.:-1, Tender No.:-** PIN-PISTON-2025-26-02, **Name of work:-** Machining of Pin-Piston Rough (Part No- 16141532) and Pin-Piston (Part No. 16141441) by Firm., **Approximate cost Rs.:-** Rs. 44562871.10 (Four Crore Forty Five Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy One Rupees & Ten Paise), **Completion period:-** 12 Months, **Tender cost Rs.:-** 00.00 **Earnest Money Rs.:-** Rs. 372800/-(Three Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Eight Hundred Rupees), **Last date and time for Submission:-** 22.12.2025 at 15.00 hrs., **Tender opening date and time:-** 22.12.2025 after 15.30 hrs., For details and to participate in e-tender visit Indian railways website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

PRO/BLW/M-26 Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Block & Engine

/banaraslocowork "Website : http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

नेशनल इन्श्योरेन्स National Insurance Trusted Since 1906

NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Bangalore Regional Office
2nd Floor, Shubharam Complex, 144, M G Road, Bangalore - 560 001

NOTICE

Further to our notice published in The Hindu dated 31st July 2025 in respect of shifting of Bangalore Business Office III (Divisional Office III) premises at No. 15-17-19, Sri Lakshmi Complex, St. Mark's Road, Bangalore-560 001, it is for the information to all our Policyholders, Intermediaries, Stakeholders, Ombudsman, General Public and other Government Offices that our Bangalore Business Office III (Divisional Office III) providing services from III Floor, Unity Building Annexe, No. 72, P. Kalinga Rao Road, Bangalore 560 027 will be shifted **w.e.f 22.01.2026** as per details below.

Office to be shifted	New location of the office after shifting & also service to be provided
Bangalore Business Office III (602200) (Divisional Office III) I Floor, Sri Lakshmi Complex, No. 15-17-19, St. Mark's Road, Bangalore 560 001 Email: 602200@nic.co.in (Office from where services were provided: Bangalore Business Office III (Divisional Office III) (602200) III Floor, Unity Building Annexe, No. 72, P. Kalinga Rao Road, Bangalore 560 027 Email: 602200@nic.co.in	Bangalore Business Office III (Divisional Office III) [602200] Ground Floor, Property No. 1, Flat No. G04 and G05, Midford House, Midford Gardens, M G Road, Bangalore - 560 001 Email: 602200@nic.co.in

Deputy General Manager

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPTT. OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNBAL - 2, BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru, Pin Code - 560 001.

RC No. 974 / 2019

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Tumkur Branch
No. 3463 / 3381, 1st Cross, Vidya Nagar, B.H. Road, Tumkur - 572 103.
... Certificate Holder Bank

Versus

M/s. RRR Polypacks and Lavenders and Others
... Certificate Debtor / Defendants

DEMAND NOTICE

1. M/s. RRR Polypacks and Lavenders
A Properietorship Concern of Shri V.K. Rithik, Place of Business
No. 7, 3rd Main, 5th Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023.
2. Sri V.K. Rithik S/o. Late R. Kothandraman
No. 58, 4th Cross, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560023.
3. Sri. E.B. Amaresh S/o. Sri. C.B. Balakrishna,
R/at : 246/1, 9th Cross, N.R. Colony, Bengaluru - 560019.
... Certificate Debtor / Defendants

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **TA No. 2086 / 2017,** passed by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore on Dtd. 16-03-2019 an amount of Rs. 1,34,06,233/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Lakh(s) Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Three Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, **on 11th Day of June 2020.**

RECOVERY OFFICER - II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2
BENGALURU

Note : Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below :

"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

(3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.

Classifieds
LIFE MADE SIMPLE THE HINDU

GENERAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ATTENTION !! CLASS 10th & 11th STUDENTS
STUDY LAW AFTER 12th FROM
NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITIES
CLAT
COACHING SCHOLARSHIP TEST

LPSAT Law Prep Scholarship Admission Test
Registration Fees : INR 79
30th Nov & 14th Dec 2025
11 AM to 12 PM
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JAYANAGAR | VIJAYANAGAR | MALLESHWARAM

VACANCIES

✔ **ST.JOHN'S MHS** School, Selvaraj Nagar, Thiruninravur–602024, Chennai Wanted Experienced PGT in English,Tamil,Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Social, Headmistress with good fluency in English Attractive Salary. Apply stjohnsteachersinfo@gmail.com, Ct: 9176839567, 9600109693, 9944614199

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

SPARE CAPACITY available in Ambattur for CNC Machining. CNC Turning 300Dia chuck, 2VMCs & CMM. 9840023659

25KV KIRLOSKAR GENERATOR used 60 hours for sale 3Lakhs 7299667755

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ESHA Bagla, D/o Mr. Lalit Kumar Bagla R/a No 11, Bride Street, Langford Town, Bangalore 560025, Karnataka have changed my name from Esha Bagla to Esha A Dewani vide Affidavit Dated: 13/11/2025, sworn before notary Mr. Ganagaraju. Henceforth I shall be known as Esha A Dewani for all official purposes.

SITUATIONS VACANT

GENERAL

WANTED SALES Managers and Asst. General Managers in Marketing for India's reputed farmland company on a very attractive commission basis, Incentives and other extra-ordinary benefits.Ph: 9390528917, 9686344599

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GENERAL

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EARN 2X THE RENT
On your
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GUEST HOUSE
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• Ground Floor Only
• Long Lease
+91 73958 73077

PUBLIC NOTICE
MADRAS RACE CLUB
CIN : U74999TN1922NPL001455
Regd. Office : Post Box 2639
Guindy, Chennai – 600 032.
Website : www.madrasraceclub.com
Tel. No. 91-44 22351171/2/3/5 & 22350774
Email Id : secretary@madrasraceclub.com

NOTICE OF EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the **Extra Ordinary General Meeting ('EGM')** of the **MADRAS RACE CLUB** ('The Club') is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, 18th December 2025 at 5.00 p.m. (IST) at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC")/Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM")** to transact the Special Business, as set out in the Notice of the EGM.

Instructions for Members intending to attend the EGM at the Venue and vote at the venue or join the Extra Ordinary General Meeting electronically and vote electronically are detailed in the Notice of the EGM.

Notice of the EGM has been sent through electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Club and hard copy has been posted to those who do not have or who have not furnished the email id. The same will also be available on the Club's website at **www.madrasraceclub.com** and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), **www.evoting.nsdl.com** the service providers for assisting such members who wish to participate in the meeting electronically.

Club Members are requested to register / update their email address by writing to the Club with details of their membership number and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN Card as identity proof and self-attested copy of any document (viz. Driving Licence, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the member at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** or to **evoting@nsdl.com**

The Club has engaged the services of NSDL as the authorised agency for assisting Members in participating in the EGM electronically and for providing e-voting facility. Members can cast their vote online from **10.00 A.M. (IST) on Monday, 15th December 2025 till 5.00 P.M. (IST) on Wednesday, 17th December 2025.** At the end of remote e-voting period, the facility shall be disabled. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the EGM may also attend/participate in the EGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. Such members who have not participated in e-voting, shall be eligible to participate in the voting at the venue at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting, subject to verification of all data. Instructions for voting at the venue in the premises of the Club are separately detailed in the Notes forming part of the Notice, convening the Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Members of the Club.

Only those members, whose names are recorded in the Register of Members as on the 'cut-of-date' ie. **Friday, 21st November 2025** only shall be entitled to vote.

In terms of Articles of Association of the Club, no Club Member shall be entitled to vote at or take part in any meeting of the Club until all moneys due to the Club by him have been paid. Hence, Club Members are requested to settle all their dues on or before **5.00 P.M. on Thursday, 11th December 2025** in order to cast their vote.

Queries/grievances, if any, with regard to e-voting, may be addressed to the Secretary, Madras Race Club, through e-mail at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** OR may please visit Help and FAQs section available at **www.evoting.nsdl.com** or Contact Number - **022 4886 7000.**

By Order of the Committee of Management of MADRAS RACE CLUB
S.NIRMAL PRASAD
Secretary
Place : Chennai
Date : Friday, 21st November 2025

Fake apps of ride-hailing services duping passengers

'These counterfeit apps look identical to official interfaces of popular cab and auto aggregators, allowing drivers to manually alter fares and present inflated bills at the end of trips'

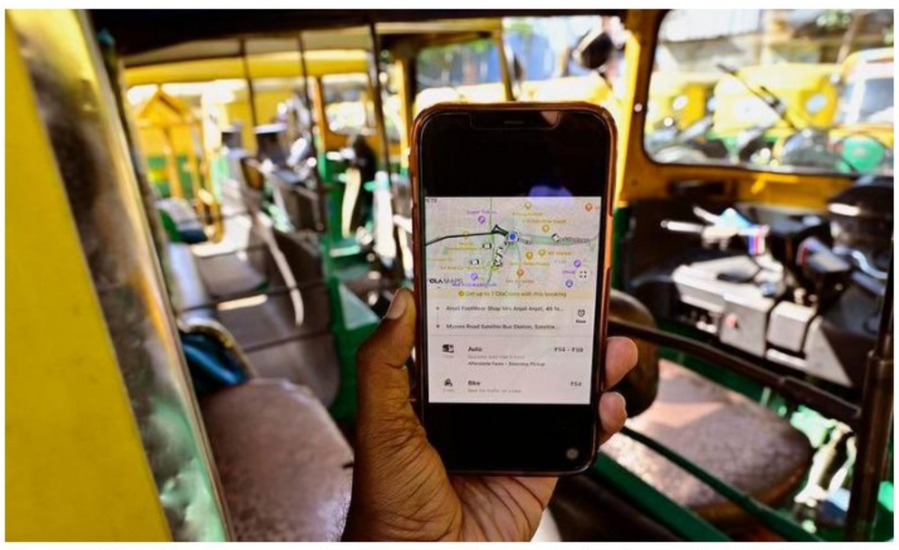
Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

A new scam targeting passengers using cab and auto aggregator apps has emerged in Bengaluru, with several commuters reporting that some autorickshaw and cab drivers are using fake mobile applications that mimic popular aggregator interfaces to overcharge unsuspecting passengers.

The passengers claim these counterfeit apps look identical to official interfaces of popular cab and auto aggregators, allowing drivers to manually alter fares and present inflated bills at the end of trips.

Punith K., a resident of Yelahanka, recounted his experience after booking an auto through a cab aggregator from Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 to Yelahanka. "The fare shown on my app was ₹700. Everything went as usual. I entered the OTP and the ride started normally. But at the end of the trip, the driver showed me a billing screen on his phone that displayed ₹950. It looked exactly like the aggregator app interface which I was using, but something seemed off," he said.

He became suspicious when his own app continued to show that the ride was not yet completed. "When I insisted on checking, the driver hesitated. After pressing him, I realised he was using a fake app. It looked exactly like the app I was using, same design, same buttons but the fare could be edited manually," he added.



It is an evolution of an older scam, where drivers used to rely on doctored screenshots showing fake fare amounts, say commuters. K. MURALI KUMAR

> The fare shown on my app was ₹700. However, at the end of the trip, the driver showed me a billing screen on his phone that displayed ₹950
>
> **PUNITH K.**
> A resident of Yelahanka

Doctored screenshots

Another commuter, Abhilash P. from J.P. Nagar, had a similar experience a few days ago. "After completing my ride, the driver quickly showed me an inflated fare and tried to close the screen before I could verify it. I refused to pay more than what was displayed on my own app. He started shouting and tried to intimidate me, but I stood firm. Finally, he accepted the actual amount shown on the genuine app," Mr. Abhilash said, adding that this seems to have become a trend now of fake apps that look exactly like the real ones.

I have no idea how they even get access to such apps, he said.

Commuters said that this was an evolution of an older scam, where drivers used to rely on doctored screenshots showing fake fare amounts. According to Ranjith Kumar, a passenger from Rajajinagar, the scam has now become more sophisticated.

"Earlier, they would show edited screenshots to trick passengers. Now they use these cloned apps. Recently, my driver switched to a fake cab aggregator interface right in front of me, which displayed a higher fare than what my phone showed. When I questioned him, he claimed my internet was slow. I toggled my data connection in front of him and waited. When he realised I wasn't giving in, he finally switched back to the real app and ended the ride," Mr. Ranjith said.

Some frequent travellers say that airport trips are the most common targets of such scams.

Neha Rao, a Jayanagar resident who frequently travels between the airport and her home, said that she was overcharged multiple times. "During my recent trip from Terminal 2 to Jayanagar, my fare was ₹1,105. The driver asked me to pay parking charges, which I agreed to. But when we reached my destination, he demanded ₹1,700, claiming that waiting and parking charges were ₹350. My app showed no such increase. When I asked to see his screen again, he refused and became aggressive. Since it was late at night, I paid to avoid a confrontation. This has happened to me more than once, especially during night trips," Ms. Neha added.

Airport rides

The complaints suggest that these scams are increasingly common on longer routes and airport rides, where higher fares and night-time conditions make it easier for drivers to exploit passengers. However, the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU) claims to have no knowledge of such practices.

T.M. Rudramurthy, general secretary of ARDU, said, "We are not aware of these scams. If such incidents are happening, they are being carried out by a few individuals who do not follow ethical practices. We condemn such behaviour."

Efforts to seek comments from aggregator companies went unanswered. Similarly, the Karnataka App-Based Workers' Union (KAWU) did not respond to queries regarding the prevalence of fake apps and potential misuse by drivers. An official from the Transport Department said no formal complaints had been received so far but assured that the department would act if evidence was provided.

Man held for selling painkillers as drugs to students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Grounds police have arrested a 27-year-old man for allegedly selling painkiller tablets as psychotropic drugs to students in the central business district. Based on a tip-off, a team of police personnel caught the accused Prem Vaishnav, a native of Rajasthan and a resident of Binny mills, red-handed while selling painkillers to his customers for a price ranging from ₹200 to ₹500 a tablet.

The police recovered 6,700 such tablets and booked him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

The police said Prem used to sell paint and other accessories for a living and indulged in selling tablets as a side job. Probe revealed that he had sourced such a huge amount of tablets from a neighbouring State through a parcel service. The drug was not sold over the counter but with a prescription, a police officer said, adding that the report in this regard has been submitted to the Drug Control Department.

There are more people involved in the racket, and efforts are on to track them, the police said.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, NOV. 23		
RISE	06:22	SET 17:50
RISE	08:49	SET 20:16
MONDAY, NOV. 24		
RISE	06:22	SET 17:50
RISE	09:40	SET 21:10
TUESDAY, NOV. 25		
RISE	06:23	SET 17:50
RISE	10:27	SET 22:03

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	27	19

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be slight cool. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, Nawaz Shaista Mohammed C/o Mohammed Gayaz Ahmed R/at Kamblipur, Hosakote, Bengaluru do hereby solemnly state that **MOHAMMED SHAISTA NAWAZ**, **SHAISTA NAWAZ MOHAMMED** and **NAWAZ SHAISTA MOHAMMED** and **MOHAMMED NAWAZ SHAISTA** date of birth **16.09.1980** and **16.08.1980** refers to same person ie., me only. I further state that I will continue as **NAWAZ SHAISTA MOHAMMED** and **DOB 16.08.1980** for all future purspose vide affidavit dated 18.11.2025 sworn to Notary.

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

Women candidates are encouraged to apply

Advt. No. IMU-HQ/D/12/11/1/2025-Academic Research — 23rd Nov 2025

Advertisement for Ph.D., Integrated Ph.D. and MS (By Research) Programme for the Academic Year 2025-2026

Indian Maritime University invites online application from desirous candidates for pursuing Ph.D. (Full-time/ Part-time), Integrated Ph.D. and MS (By Research) programmes in the Schools of Marine Engineering & Technology, Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering, Maritime Management, Nautical Science and Allied Studies for the Academic year 2025–26. The interested candidates are requested to visit IMU website for detailed information, eligibility criteria, and guidelines for online application submission. [http://www.imu.ac.in]

University Research Fellowship is available for Full-time Scholars.

Important Dates:-
Application Open date: 23.11.2025
Closing Date: 20.12.2025

–Sd-
REGISTRAR

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

South Western Railway invites application for empanelment of Advocates for CAT & RCT, Bengaluru Bench, Karnataka.

Notification calling for application from eligible Advocates for Central Administrative Tribunal and Railway Claims Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench, Karnataka Panel have been published on **https://swr.indianrailways.gov.in**.

Last date for submission of application:
Upto 23:59 Hrs. on 17-12-2025

For details log on:
https://swr.indianrailways.gov.in.

Senior Law Officer/HQ
PUB/673/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Hubballi**

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

GOLDEN PALM COMMUNITY CENTRE
NEAR VANNARPET POST VIVEKNAGAR BANGALORE -560047
(C/O PIONEER CORPS TRG CENTRE, PIN-900493 C/O 56 APO)

SELECTION OF AN EX-SERVICEMAN, JUNIOR COMMISSIONED OFFICER (INDIAN ARMY) ON TEMPORARY BASIS TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AT GOLDEN PALM COMMUNITY CENTRE (GPCC)

1. Applications are invited from retired Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Indian Army for re-employment at Golden Palm Community Centre (GPCC) as Administrative Officer. Priority will be given to EX JCO residing at Bangalore Station.

2. Eligibility Criteria are as under :-
(a) Should have served in the Indian Army.
(b) Should have retired from the rank of Naib Subedar and above.
(c) The JCO should not have been charged under Army Act Sec 48 in last 05 years.
(d) The JCO should not have been ever involved in any Criminal & Other civ cases.

3. Terms and Conditions :-
(a) Monthly Salary Rs. 35,000/- (Rupees thirty five thousand only) per month.
(b) Nos of Vacancy. One
(c) Leave Entitlement. Sunday & Closed Holidays on cumulative basis

4. Application forms for re-employment be obtained from Account Branch of this establishment upto five working days prior to last date of submission of application form.
(a) Collection of Application Form - 1030 hrs to 1330 hrs upto 03 Dec 25 (Interested parties can go around the GPCC on prior permission from authority before date of submission of application).
(b) Last date of submission of Application - To reach by 03 Dec 25.

5. Application for "Administrative Officer at GPCC" will be written on the top of envelop. The application shall be submitted to under mentioned address :-

Presiding Officer
Pioneer Corps Training Centre
Near Ayyeppa Temple
Banaswadi Military Garrison
Banaswadi, Bangalore-560033

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Management Branch, Bengaluru

Authorized Officer's Details:
Name: Sri. Raghunandan K
E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: 9148103793
Land Line No. (Office): 080-25943474

Address of the Branch:
2nd Floor, Office Complex Building,SBI LHO Campus,
No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001
Telephone: 080 -25943474
E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in

APPENDIX – IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]

E-AUCTION SALE ON 11.12.2025

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgager that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As Is Where Is", "As Is What Is" and "Whatever There Is"** basis on **11.12.2025** for recovery of **Rs.40,98,60,448.00 (Rupees Forty Crore Ninety Eight Lakh Sixty Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Eight Only)**as on 31.10.2025 and further interest at contractual rate from 01.11.2025 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc., due to the State Bank of India, Secured Creditor from the Borrowers and the Guarantors:
The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit and Bid Increment Amount will be as under:

Property No.	Reserve Price (Below which the properties will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment amount	Time & Date of e-Auction
SBIN200032618391	Rs.23,90,00,000/-	Rs.2,39,00,000/-	Rs.500,000/-	From 11:00am to 4:00pm on 11.12.2025
SBIN200021937224	Rs.4,93,00,000/-	Rs.49,30,000/-	Rs200,000/-	

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES (Immovable Assets)

1. Tender No.: SBIN200032618391
Reserve Price (Amt in Rs.): Rs.23,90,00,000/-
ITEM NO.1 : All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Old Survey No.69/1 New Survey No.69/3, Situated at Marase Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and District Duly Converted for the Non-Agricultural residential use Vide Order No.ALN(3)CR:117:2013-14 dated 13.01.2014 Official Memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru
MEASURING. 0.35 ½ Gunta of Converted Land.BOUNDED ON East By: Survey No.68, West By : Survey No.69/2, North By: Survey No.70 , South By: Survey No.69/1
(CARE:Schedule as per the Registered Sale Deed Executed Favour of Shri.Ajith Narayan K and Shri.Shriram K & Registered before Sub-registrar, Mysuru North Vide Document No.MYN-1-3341-2005-06 Stored In CD NO.MYND 47 in Book No.1 and the same is Registered On 02.06.2005 and also the Boundary of the Survey Number is as per The Official Memorandum Issued By Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru Vide their Order Dated 13.01.2014)
ITEM NO. 2 : All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Old Survey No.69/2 New Survey No.69/4, Situated at Marase Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and District Duly Converted for the Non-Agricultural residential use Vide Order No.ALN(3)CR:118:2013-14 dated 13.01.2014 Official Memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru.
Measuring1 Acre 26.06 Gunta of converted land Bounded on: East By: Survey No.69/1, West By: Survey No.79 and 80, North By: Survey No.70 South By: Survey No.69/2
(CARE:Schedule as per the Registered Sale Deed executed favour of Shri.Ajith Narayan K And Shri.Shriram K & Registered Before Sub-registrar, Mysuru North Vide Document No.MYN-1-3341-2005-06 Stored In CD No.MYND47 in Book No.1 and the same is Registered on 02.06.2005 and also the boundary of the Survey Number is as per the Official Memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru vide their Order Dated 13.01.2014)
CONSOLIDATED PROPERTY ; All the piece and parcel of the Property Bearing Old Survey No.69/1 New Survey No.69/3 AND Old Survey No.69/2 New Survey No.69/4, Situated at Marase Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and District - Total Area 9890.18 Square Meters (As per the Single Site Residential Plan Approval letter issued by MUDA, Mysuru vide MUDA:NAYOG:58:2014-15 Dated 16.09.2014)Total Area 9890.18 Square Meters and 16 Villas Built on the Schedule Mentioned Property Are Mortgaged to the Bank.
The Details are as under:-

Sl. No.	Villa No.	Measurement Total Area/Plinth Area/ Carpet Area	Measurement Situated at Survey No. 69/3 & Survey No. 69/4	Boundaries East by	Boundaries West by	Boundaries North by	Boundaries South by
01	01	1600-800-1350	Marase Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk & District.	Villa No.2	Generator Yard & Compound	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
02	02	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 3	Villa No. 1	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
03	05	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 6	Villa No. 4	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
04	06	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 7	Villa No. 5	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
05	11	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 12	Villa No. 10	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
06	21	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 20	Villa No. 22	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
07	22	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 21	Villa No. 23	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
08	26	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 25	Villa No. 27	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
09	28	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 27	Villa No. 29	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
10	29	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 28	Villa No. 30	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
11	30	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 29	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way	Villa No. 31
12	31	1600-800-1350	- do -	Garden & Compound	Swimming Pool & Garden	Villa No. 30	Villa No. 32
13	32	1600-800-1350	- do -	Garden & Compound	Swimming Pool & Garden	Villa No. 31	Villa No. 33
14	33	1600-800-1350	- do -	Garden & Compound	Swimming Pool & Garden	Villa No. 32	Garden & Compound
15	37	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 36	Villa No. 38	Swimming Pool/Garden	Garden & Compound
16	40	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 39	Villa No. 41	Swimming Pool/Garden	Garden & Compound

12 Villas built on the Schedule Mentioned Property are mortgaged to the bank.

	Villa No.	Measurement in Meter E-W	Measurement in Meter N-S	Boundaries East	Boundaries West	Boundaries North	Boundaries South
17	12	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 13	Villa No. 11	Swimming Pool	Road
18	13	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 14	Villa No. 12	Swimming Pool	Road
19	14	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 15	Villa No. 13	Swimming Pool	Road
20	15	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 16	Villa No. 14	Swimming Pool	Road
21	16	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 17	Villa No. 15	Swimming Pool	Road
22	17	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 18	Villa No. 16	Swimming Pool	Road
23	18	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 19	Villa No. 17	Swimming Pool	Road
24	19	7.83336	9.144	Garden	Villa No. 17	Swimming Pool	Road
25	20	7.83336	9.144	STP	Villa No. 21	Road	Swimming Pool
26	23	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 22	Villa No. 24	Road	Swimming Pool
27	24	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 23	Villa No. 25	Road	Swimming Pool
28	25	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 24	Villa No. 26	Road	Swimming Pool

CONSOLIDATED PROPERTY
Vacant land measuring 106121.63sq.ft. area with 28 pool villas numbering 1,2,5,6,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37 & 40 measuring 44,800 sq.ft. built up area, Club house measuring 4627.66 sq.ft., Rooms block measuring 3200 sq.ft., Banquet hall measuring 9595 sq.ft., Reception and Back office measuring 108.05 sq.ft., Gents and Ladies toilet measuring 51.37 sq.ft. and Extra items and amenities like Compound wall, M.S. Gate, Pavement, cobal pavement, landscaping, Swimming pool (main pool, Gym building and equipments, Security room, STP, OHT, Sump, bore well, water softener, pressure pump etc. in Sy no 69/3 and 69/4 situated at Marase village, Varuna Hobli, Mysore Taluk.
Note: Excluding undivided share of land pertaining to remaining villas not under Mortgage to the bank.

2. Tender No. : SBIN200021937224
Reserve Price (Amt in Rs.): Rs.4,93,00,000/-
Property No. 1
(Title deed holders, 1. Late Ajith Narayan K (now represented by his legal heirs (i) Smt. Rajalakshmi (Wife) (ii) Shri. Rohan (Son) (iii) Smt. Bhavani (Daughter) and 2. Shri. K Sriram S/o. Late V N Krishnamurthy)
a) All that piece & parcel of the Converted Land No. 69/2, measuring 33 Guntas, situated at Madaragally Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District, the land is converted to Residential purpose by Deputy Commissioner Mysuru District vide their order bearing No. ALN:3:CR:115:2013-14, dated: 13.01.2014,
Property boundaries as per conversion order.
East by: Neeranahalla**, North by;** Sy no. 69/1, **West by**: Sy no. 69/1**, South by:** Sy no. 69/3.
Boundaries As per sale deed
East by: Huchahalla, **North by**: Land of Balasubramanya, **West by:** Land of Srikantaiah, **South by:** Land of Rajashekara
Property No. 2
(Title deed holders, 1. Late Ajith Narayan K (now represented by his legal heirs(i) Smt. Rajalakshmi (Wife) (ii) Shri. Rohan (Son) (iii) Smt. Bhavani (Daughter) and 2. Shri. K Sriram S/o. Late V N Krishnamurthy)
a) All that piece & parcel of the Converted Land No. 69/3, measuring 1 acre 10 Guntas, situated at Madaragally Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District, the said land is converted to Residential purpose by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru District, vide their order bearing No. ALN:3:CR:116:2013-14 dated: 13.01.2014
Property boundaries as per conversion order.
East by: Neeranahalla, **North by** : Sy no. 69/1,2, **West by:** Sy no. 70, **South by:** Sy no. 69/4
Boundaries As per sale deed
East by: Huchahalla, **North by:** Land of DoddaThayamma, **West by:** Land of Srikantaiah urf Bangarappa, **South by;** Land of K V Ramesh
Property No. 3 (Title deed holders Shri. K Sriram S/o. Late V N Krishnamurthy)
a) All that piece & parcel of the property bearing Survey No. 69/4, measuring 1 acre 6 Guntas situated at Madaragally Village, VarunaHobli, MysuruTaluk and District. The said land is converted to Residential purpose by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru District, vide their order bearing No. ALN:3:CR:119:2013-14 dated: 13.01.2014,
Property boundaries as per conversion order.
East by : Neeranahalla, **North by**: Sy no. 59/3, **West by:** Sy no. 70, **South by**: Neeranahalla and Sy. 59/5
Boundaries As per sale deed : East by : Huchahalla , **North by** : Land of K V Ramesh, **West by:** Road, **South by** : Land of Sukumar

The sale shall be subject to provisions of the Secularization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
For further details regarding inspection of the property the intending bidder may contact the Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Management Branch, 2nd Floor, Office Complex Building, SBI LHO Campus, No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001, Telephone: 080-25943474.
To the best of knowledge of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in PSB Alliance Pvt Limited,**https://www.baanknet.in**

Date: 21.11.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Assistant General Manager&Authorized Officer
State Bank of India,
Stressed Asset Management Branch, Bengaluru

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

New labour codes lead to confusion over State's minimum wage revision

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The revision of minimum wages in Karnataka, last notified in 2017-2018, is overdue since revision has to be done once in at least five years. FILE PHOTO

The notification of four labour codes by the Centre on Friday has led to confusion over the revision of minimum wages in Karnataka, with contrary views emerging.

The revision, which could benefit about 1.8 crore employees across 81 scheduled employment, is already overdue by more than three years and the notificaiton of codes might further delay or even stymie it.

What is replaced

The Code on Social Security, 2020; Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Occupation Health, Safety and Working Conditions Code, 2020, and Code on Wages, 2019 will replace 29 pieces of labour legislation in the country. The code on wages replaces the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

The revision of minimum wages in Karnataka, last notified in 2017-2018, is overdue since revision has to be done once in at least five years.

The draft issued in April, 2025, for revision of minimum wages, had proposed wages in the range of ₹ 19,319 for unskilled worker to about ₹31,000 for highly skilled worker.

The Labour Department, after collecting data on price rise, had arrived at it based on the formula laid down by the Supreme Court in the Raptakos Brett and Co. case. Multiple cases had reached the Karnataka High Court as employers had opposed the hike, calling it "steep".

Labour Minister Santosh Lad, speaking to *The Hindu,* insisted that the new labour ode wouill not affect the ongoing consultation of minimum wages, since the rules under the Code also have similar provisions. He also said that Centre cannot impose uniform wages across the country and states should have their leeway.

What unions say

Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) Karnataka general secretary Meenakshi Sundaram said that since the draft minimum wages was notified in April and the codes came in November, the wages can be implemented retrospectively. "The State government should not have delayed implementation even after completion of deliberations," he said, adding that Labour is a subject in the concurrent list.

Responding to the delay, Mr. Lad said, "The issue received many objections. Currently, the matter is being reviewed at the Government level and a decision will be made soon."

All India Trade Union Centre (AITUC) Karnataka Secretary M. Sathyanand drew attention to other areas of possible confusion. He said that the Code does not have provision of scheduled employments, and the State's draft notification in April, 2025, had revised minimum wage for 81 scheduled employment. "This causes confusion as the process of revision is almost completed. We urge the government to finalise the draft notification with retrospective effect," he added. Further, Mr. Sathyanand pointed out that the Code on Wages caps the house rent allowance at 10 % of the cost of food and clothing, which roughly translates to about ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 1,200 per month of rent in a city like Bengaluru. "This is illogical. This is also a major violation of guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court."

Employers' view

Taking a contrary view, B.C. Prabhakar, President of Karnataka Employers Association said, "Under the Code, the State government cannot fix minimum wages, and the onus will be on the Centre. Existing wages will prevail in States if national minimum wages fixed is less than what has already been decided at the State level," he said.

He argued that the fresh minimum wages to be notified by the Centre could take some time and it could also be challenging given the vast diversity of the country.

"The State government will also have to make rules to implement the minimum wages along with the Centre," he said.

CM meets Kharge on resolving impasse over power sharing

There was no clarity on the outcome of the talks; Shivakumar too is expected to meet Kharge on Sunday

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

After ruling out a change of leadership in the State government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on All India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge at the latter's residence in Bengaluru on Saturday and held talks on resolving the impasse over the much-talked-about power-sharing pact that was apparently arrived at during the formation of the government in 2023.

The Chief Minister arrived alone at the residence of Mr. Kharge to hold talks on the proposed State Cabinet reshuffle, believed to have been opposed by Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar.

Consulting 'first family'

Though there was no clarity on the outcome of the talks, it is assumed that Mr. Kharge has promised the Chief Minister that a decision either on a Cabinet reshuffle or transfer of power to Mr. Shivakumar would be taken only after consultations with the Congress "first family" members and MPs, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Priyank Gandhi.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A few days ago in Delhi, Mr. Gandhi told the Chief Minister to discuss the issue related to the Cabinet reshuffle with Mr. Kharge.

As both leaders of the State appear to be not ready to give up their demands, the high command is facing a Catch-22 situation, and the party's top brass is weighing the options before it, party sources said.

The contention between the two leaders is believed to have surfaced following Mr. Siddaramaiah's move to seek the high command's nod for the Cabinet reshuffle while Mr. Shivakumar sought the transfer of power to him as per the informal pact.

Mr. Siddaramaiah's reiteration that he will continue to be the Chief Minister, and in return Mr. Shivakumar's jibe at the former, "wishing him all the best", has added fuel to the fire.

Before meeting Mr. Kharge, the Chief Minister reportedly huddled with loyal Ministers such as K.J. George, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed, Byrathi Suresh, Satish Jarkiholi, and Eshwar Khandre at his residence. Mr. Shivakumar is expected to meet Mr. Kharge on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, MLAs belonging to both factions had been demanding immediate intervention of the party high command to resolve the issue around the leadership.

Tanvir Sait, KPCC working president, said the high command should have clarified its stand on the power-sharing earlier. Confusion on whether an agreement was reached or not has continued for the past 30 months and has reached a climax, he said, and hoped that the Central leaders would resolve differences in the next two days.

Seen together

In the midst of statements of leaders belonging to both factions, Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar shared a stage and spoke to each other at Matsya Mela organised by the Fisheries Department at the Veterinary College in the city on Saturday.

Meanwhile, several MLAs rushed to the Chief Minister's residence earlier on Saturday and discussed political developments with Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Satish Jarkiholi.

A courtesy call, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, which lasted close to 90 minutes, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said it was "only a courtesy call".

Asked about the Cabinet reshuffle and power sharing, he said, "It's only a speculation you [media] are making. Ultimately, the high command's decision will be accepted by me and D.K. Shivakumar also."

Kumaraswamy predicts 'explosive political developments' in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has predicted what he has called "explosive political developments" unfolding in Karnataka soon. Speaking at the JD (S) silver jubilee celebrations here on Saturday, he said judging by the political developments, "unforeseen and unexpected events are likely to occur in the coming days."

"With political changes happening every day, every moment, it seems very possible that the State may witness a political upheaval within a few months," he said.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said that people, meanwhile, were frustrated with poor governance, rising taxes, and spiralling prices. He criticised the financial condition of the State, saying Karnataka's debt had crossed ₹7.5 lakh crore.

Cong. high command should clearly say who is CM: Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Saturday demanded that the Congress high command clarify to the people who really is the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

"Because of the fight between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister for the top post, the government has come to a standstill. If Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge do not make a decision, the government will not function. The administrative machinery is in a coma," he said.

R. Ashok

"One gang is working to save Mr. Siddaramaiah, while another is working to remove him. Meanwhile, criminal acts have increased. Farmers are taking to the streets in protest. The political situation has deteriorated. Here, it is unclear who is the Chief Minister," he said, adding that "Rahul Gandhi's weak leadership" was evident and the high command was unable to keep the MLAs under control.

No hasty implementation of labour codes in State, says Santosh Lad

A protest organised against the 'anti-worker' labour codes in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Reacting to the Central government implementing the four labour codes on Friday (November 21, 2025), Santosh Lad, Labour Minister, said that industries, trade unions, and employers' unions would be consulted before implementing the codes in the State.

"In the name of ease of doing business, you cannot overlook labour issues. We will look into it and see what is going to help our people. We will discuss elaborately with the parties concerned, including industries, trade unions and employers' unions and make decisions accordingly," he said, talking to *The Hindu.*

'Hurting labour'

Mr. Lad also criticised the Union government of being "anti-labour". "Labour is getting hurt in the name of 'ease of doing business.' Whatever the Government of India is doing is not pro-labour. Earlier, if a company of 100 employees had to shut down, they had to get our permission. Now, no company with an employee strength of less than 300 has to do it. This kind of legislation overlooks labour welfare," he said.

Trade unions oppose

Sathyanand, secretary, AITUC Karnataka, termed the move "a retrograde measure that undermines the foundational welfare aspects of the existing labour laws and pushes the workers to the unorganised sector by legalising hire and fire policies".

"We strongly urge the State government to take into account the objections of the central trade unions while framing and finalising the rules and ensure that the welfare of the workers is protected to some degree," he said.

Call for protests

Following the notification, both CITU and AITUC held spontaneous protests in various districts on Saturday. CITU also called for protests on November 26, Constitution Day, at all district centres.

"Notification of these codes is nothing but a declaration of war on the working people amidst the growing unemployment crisis and rising inflation. The Central government, in collusion with its capitalist allies, is trying to take the country into an era of exploitation," said a statement from CITU, Karnataka.

CM writes to PM on steep crash in maize prices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging the issue of steep crash in maize and green gram prices in Karnataka, stating that this has caused deep distress among farmers.

> Prices have fallen far below the MSP declared by the Government of India, creating widespread distress among cultivators
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

MSP procurement

Mr. Siddaramaiah has urged Mr. Modi to direct NAFED, FCI and NCCF to begin Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement immediately under the Price Support Scheme or another suitable mechanism to address the distress of farmers.

"Prices have fallen far below the MSP declared by the Government of India, creating widespread distress among cultivators," he said in his communication.

The Chief Minister pointed out that while the Centre fixed MSP at ₹2,400 per tonne for maize and ₹ 28,768 per tonne for green gram, the prevailing prices in Karnataka had dropped to ₹1,600 to ₹ 1,800 per tonne for maize and around ₹ 5,400 per tonne for green gram.

Even the modal prices of the last three years were higher than MSP, but external pressures and supply-demand distortions had pushed prices to record lows, the Chief Minister said.

Marketable surplus

Karnataka had a marketable surplus of 32 lakh tonnes of maize, far exceeding the absorptive capacity of local industries, Mr. Siddaramaiah pointed out.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SUBORDINATE JUDGE, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

I A No. 1 of 2025 & I A No. 2 of 2025
In
O.S. No. 1287 of 2016

Sri Vyasaraja Mutt through its Administrator ..Plaintiff
Vs
Sri Vidhya Manohara Thirtharu & 2 others ....Defendants

To

1. Sri Vidhya Manohara Thirtharu
Matadhipathi, Sri Vyasaraja Mutt (Sosale) Thirumukudulu,
T Narasipura Taluk Mysore District, Karnataka

2. Sosale Prakash S/o Sosale Narayan Doss
NO. 1160, 5th Main, A Block, 2nd Stage
Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore 560010.

Please take notice that in the above said I.A No 1 of 2025 & I.A No. 2 of 2025 in O S No. 1287 of 2016 came up for hearing on 04-11-2025, and the Hon'ble Principal Subordinate Judge, Tiruchirappalli was pleased to order notice to you returnable by 24-11-2025 and posted the matter on 05-12-2025

Make it convenient to appear before the Hon'ble Principal Subordinate Judge, Tiruchirappalli on 05-12-2025 at 10.15 AM, either in person or through a pleader, failing which the matter will be heard on merits and decided ex-parte.

P.R. KRISHNARAJ
Advocate
Counsel for Plaintiff

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

OMC ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. Mining Happiness

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sl. No.	EOI No.	Job Description	Availability of Tender Documents in e-Procurement Portal	Bid Due Date
1.	OMC/ E-PROC/C&P/ 024/2025-26	Empanelment of Agency for preparation of EIA/EMP report for grant of Environment Clearance (EC) from MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi or SEIAA, Odisha, Bhubaneswar	21.11.2025	20.12.2025

All other details can be seen from the Tender Document available on the e-procurement portal of the Government of Odisha (www.tendersodisha.gov.in) and on the website of OMC (www.omcltd.in). OMC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Head (C&P),
Odisha Mining Corporation Limited
0674-2377475/2377524

CAD-2423:

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY

Born
30.4.1955

Died
17.11.2025

T.R.RAMANAN

It is with profound sorrow that we convey the passing away of Sri T.R.Ramanan. May his soul rest in peace and may his memory be a source of comfort and strength to all who loved him.

Deeply mourned by,
Family and Friends
Staff of SriRam Chemical Industries & Bharat Bhavanam, Mettupalayam. Ph: 9042131400

INBRIEF

T.M. Krishna tried to make a difference, says CPI(M) leader

Art cannot be an escape from reality; it is a mirror to reality, Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna said in the Kerala capital on Saturday. He was speaking after receiving the fifth P. Govinda Pillai memorial national award, instituted in memory of the Marxist ideologue by the PG Samskrithi Kendram. Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader M.A. Baby, who gave away the award, said the musician had tried to make a difference to the rigid structures of music rendition.

Former TTD chief rejects laddu adulteration claims

Former Chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Y.V. Subba Reddy has described reports that nearly 20 crore laddus were prepared in the Tirumala temple using adulterated ghee between 2019 and 2024 as "misleading". The YSRCP leader expressed his resolve to fully cooperate with the SIT probing the case, and maintained that "selective leaks" to the media before the completion of the scientific analysis were dangerous.

Focus shifts to bank staff in Telangana cybercrime cases

As cyberfraud cases continue to rise across Telangana, investigators are turning their attention to the banking system, which they say is being misused to enable crimes through forged documents and mule accounts. Under 'Operation Insider', launched about two months ago, four bank officials, including two branch managers, have been arrested for opening current accounts without due verification and taking commissions from fraudsters in three separate cases.

Efforts are on to track down 'untraceable' voters in Kerala

1.2 lakh people found 'untraceable' in first leg of SIR; district-wise data will be uploaded and also given to parties, says Chief Electoral Officer; representatives flag issues faced by BLOs and voters

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Even as the digitisation of filled-up enumeration forms have begun in earnest under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Kerala, election officials are embarking on an effort to track down voters found 'untraceable' during the enumeration phase.

Addressing political party representatives at a weekly review meeting here on Saturday, Chief Electoral Officer (Kerala) Rathan U. Kelkar put this number at 1,19,315. (This number was updated to 1,29,836 by Saturday evening). This list includes 8,087 voters listed as 'untraceable/absent', 37,835 voters listed as 'permanently shifted,' 66,740 'dead,' 6,032 as 'already enrolled,' and 621 in the 'others' category.

Hands-on support: Rathan U. Kelkar and officials helping a Thiruvananthapuram resident fill the SIR form. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

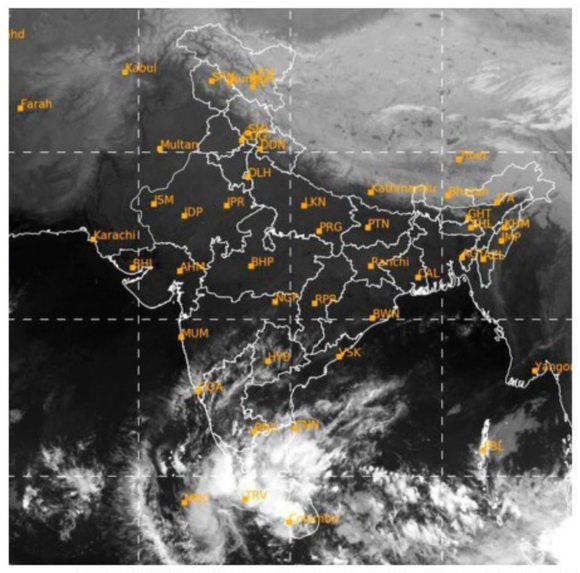
Mr. Kelkar said his office was planning to upload the district-wise data online in a bid to track them down. "We will also hand over the figures to political parties. What we intend is a scrutiny of this data by booth level officers (BLO) and booth level agents (BLA)," he said.

Instructions have been passed down to the BLOs to hold meetings with the BLAs after enumeration forms are returned. "If a untraceable individual is known to the BLA, the BLA can intervene promptly and resolve the issue," Mr. Kelkar said. He expressed confidence that the digitisation of the forms can be completed within the December 4 deadline. He said 99.5% of the forms had been distributed.

During the meeting, political parties questioned the rationale of pushing BLOs to meet early deadlines when the deadline set by the EC was December 4. They drew attention to issues faced by insufficiently trained BLOs and the voter confusion in filling the SIR form, especially the third section required to be filled up by those missing from the 2002 SIR list.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.4	18.2	Kozhikode	—	33.2	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	31.1	16.3	Kurnool	—	33.8	22.4
Aizawl	—	26.0	13.2	Lucknow	—	27.0	14.4
Allahabad	—	28.0	13.0	Madurai	2	32.0	24.8
Bengaluru	1	27.3	19.2	Mangaluru	—	31.7	24.5
Bhopal	—	27.7	9.6	Mumbai	—	33.5	19.6
Bhubaneswar	—	32.0	19.1	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	25.6	8.9	New Delhi	—	27.3	11.8
Chennai	—	31.3	25.0	Patna	—	27.1	18.2
Coimbatore	0.6	31.6	22.4	Port Blair	—	31.0	26.2
Dehradun	—	26.0	10.0	Puducherry	7	29.7	24.4
Gangtok	9	13.4	10.0	Pune	—	34.0	18.1
Goa	—	33.6	24.4	Raipur	—	31.2	15.5
Guwahati	—	29.4	18.3	Ranchi	—	26.4	13.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	21.0	Shillong	—	20.0	9.0
Hyderabad	—	30.4	19.4	Shimla	—	19.0	8.0
Imphal	—	26.0	16.9	Srinagar	—	17.2	-2.0
Jaipur	—	27.3	13.3	Thiruvananthapuram	46	26.2	23.8
Kochi	3	31.4	25.8	Tiruchi	3	30.8	23.6
Kohima	—	19.7	13.4	Vijayawada	—	32.2	24.2
Kolkata	—	29.1	18.6	Visakhapatnam	—	31.2	24.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	128	80	236	250	
Bengaluru	6	12	62	—	109	
Chennai	.15	23	18	75	66	
Delhi	.64	145	72	431	410	
Hyderabad	4	25	85	162	111	
Kolkata	8	18	33	324	184	
Lucknow	7	43	59	239	265	
Mumbai	8	51	51	238	289	
Pune	.10	76	76	250	237	
Visakhapatnam	8	16	12	61	68	

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 434 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Sabarimala spot booking to be raised based on daily footfall

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

Noting that the crowd situation at Sabarimala has been fully brought under control, a meeting convened by Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan on Saturday decided to increase the spot-booking limit based on the daily crowd flow.

The meeting, attended by Devaswom department Secretary M.G. Rajamanickam, also resolved to address the shortcomings in the existing crowd-management arrangements. At present, an average of 70 pilgrims climb the 18 holy steps each minute. This will be raised to 85, allowing more devotees to have darshan. Additional experienced police personnel will be deployed to speed up pilgrim movement.

37 Maoists lay down arms in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Thirty-seven underground members of the banned CPI (Maoist), including three senior State committee members, surrendered in Hyderabad on Saturday. The Telangana Police termed it one of the most substantial setbacks to the outfit in recent years.

Under the State's rehabilitation policy, the three senior leaders who gave up arms will receive ₹20 lakh each. Others will get between ₹5 lakh and ₹1 lakh.

Officers said that sustained anti-Naxal operations, ideological disagreements, internal rifts and constant mobility restrictions had weakened the CPI (Maoist) across the region.

As many as 465 underground cadres left the outfit in 2025, officials said.

There's no question of breaking ties with NDA, declares Deve Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (S) national president H.D. Deve Gowda declared on Saturday that there was no question of his party breaking its ties with the NDA under any circumstances.

"We have complete faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah," he said, addressing party workers and leaders at the JD (S) silver jubilee celebrations.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and other Janata Dal (S) leaders at the silver jubilee celebrations of the party in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We stand firmly with the NDA. We trust Prime Minister Modi's leadership. A strong government is in place under him. Our workers and leaders must never forget this," he urged.

He recalled the party's long-standing association with national politics, saying, "During the Emergency, we worked alongside Jayaprakash Narayan and the Jan Sangh, which was the second freedom struggle. In the interest of the nation, we must continue to work together. The Congress must be taught a lesson for its bad governance."

Like Nitish

Comparing his party to Janata Dal (U), headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Mr. Gowda declared, "In the North, it is JD(U). In the South, it is JD-S... There it is Nitish Kumar, and here it is Kumaraswamy".

He added, "Nitish Kumar has been in politics for 30 years. He has taken oath 10 times. He is a sharp and intelligent political leader. We must keep that in mind as we move forward." JD (S) and JD (U) are the breakaway factions of the original Janata Dal.

Fishermen's relief fund raised to ₹10L

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to strengthen the State's fisheries sector, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday announced that the compensation under the Fishermen's Distress Relief Fund had been increased from ₹6 lakh to ₹10 lakh.

Speaking after inaugurating the World Fisheries Day celebrations and Matsya Mela - 2025 on the Hebbal Veterinary College campus, he said the government had released ₹9.48 crore towards 264 compensation cases over the past two years.

The Chief Minister said over 10 lakh people depended on fisheries for their livelihood. Karnataka produced 9.63 lakh tonnes of fish in 2024-25, ranking third in total fish production nationwide.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the inauguration of World Fisheries Day Festival 2025 on the Veterinary College campus in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

'Long-term investment'

"Our government has earmarked ₹3,000 crore for the comprehensive development of the fisheries sector. This is a long-term investment in blue economy," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Reiterating support for traditional fishermen, Mr. Siddaramaiah noted that industrial kerosene was supplied to country boats at a subsidised rate of ₹35 per litre, and the diesel quota for mechanised boats had been increased from 1.5 lakh kilolitres to 2 lakh kilolitres annually. He also announced the government's intent to establish a fisheries university in Karnataka.

New policy

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, addressing the gathering, said that a new tourism policy was being considered to boost fish-based economic activities.

Fisheries Minister Mankal S. Vaidya announced housing aid for 10,000 fishermen, the State's first marine ambulance worth ₹7 crore, enhanced closed-season relief from ₹1,500 to ₹3,000, and improved fishing infrastructure across coastal districts.

Sai Baba's message a guiding spirit for society, says Murmu

K. Umashanker
PUTTAPARTHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday underlined the enduring global influence of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's philosophy of service, describing his life and teachings as a guiding spirit for society. Addressing a special programme at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of Baba's centenary celebrations, she said his motto, service to mankind is service to God, continues to inspire millions of devotees engaged in humanitarian work for the underprivileged across the world.

President Murmu, Chandrababu Naidu and others during Sathya Sai Baba's centenary celebrations on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The President said the Centre remains committed to improving people's lives through skill development and inclusive growth, and called for greater participation from spiritual and social organisations in nation-building. She noted that the Sathya Sai Trust has consistently worked to uplift women through various welfare initiatives.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said world peace could become a reality when individuals and nations embody Sai Baba's principles of Love All-Serve All and Help Ever-Hurt Never, along with the core values of Satya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema, and Ahimsa.

Kerala backs mass migration of nurses to Germany

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After the Church-driven irregular recruitment of a large number of nurses to Germany from Kerala during the 1960s and 1970s, who then earned the epithet "brown angels," Kerala is now witnessing a second wave of successful and structured recruitment of nurses to Germany. This time, the mass recruitment is being managed jointly by the State government and the German Federal Employment Agency. Already, 900 nurses from Kerala were deployed in Germany, and another batch of 700 will soon leave for that country.

A 'Triple Win' programme implemented by NoRKA Roots in association with the Federal Employment Agency, Germany, is creating the second wave of migration of nurses. The legacy of the nurses who earlier migrated to Germany also set the ground for the second wave.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ajith Kolassery, Chief Executive Officer of NoRKA-Roots, the field agency of the State government's Department of Non-Resident Keralites Affairs, Kerala has sent over 900 nursing candidates to Germany till October 2025, and another 700 candidates are at various stages of deployment.

Other countries

Germany had earlier experimented with the recruitment programme with countries such as Slovakia, Mexico, Vietnam, etc., before signing an agreement with the State government. This has evolved as the most successful full-structured recruitment drive to Germany from India, with the programme winning the hearts of the people in Germany, along with setting a win-win situation for the health sector in the host country and nurses in Kerala, which is now called as the nursing capital of the country.

As many as 900 nurses from Kerala were deployed in Germany, and another batch of 700 will soon leave for Germany.

The recruitment drive includes identifying the right candidates and upskilling them, including imparting German language training, and deploying the most successful candidates to the destination country. After the successful implementation of the project, Germany also went on to recruit nurses from Karnataka, where the Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding with the German authorities and Telangana.

Further, Germany has expanded the scope of recruitment from Kerala by seeking the deployment of caregivers and electricians, apart from giving vocational training through NoRKA Roots for students who completed Class XII in Science. The most attractive feature of the recruitment programme is that no middlemen are involved in the process, and the entire expense is borne by Germany.

From Page One

PM proposes initiatives on skills at G-20 summit

He also held talks on the sidelines of the event with South Korean President Lee Jae-myung and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. He greeted Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. He also met briefly with leaders of the U.K., Italy, France, Brazil, Angola, and Singapore.

This is the first time the G-20 grouping of the world's largest economies has been hosted in an African country.

However, the Summit was marked by the boycott of the United States, which did not send a leader to the event due to tense ties with South Africa. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said he would hand over the G-20 Presidency to an "empty chair" on Sunday, though a U.S. diplomat will attend the function, and U.S. President Donald Trump plans to host the G-20 in 2026.

"The parameters of growth on which the world has worked so far have left a large section of the population deprived of resources. They have also contributed to the over-exploitation of nature," Mr. Modi said at the first session on Saturday.

"Today, as Africa hosts the G-20 Summit for the first time, it is imperative for us to reconsider the parameters of development," he added.

He also said India was prepared to impart skill development to "one million" people across the African continent as part of a G-20-Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative, and also develop a G-20 Global Healthcare Response Team, and a G-20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus.

Ukraine, EU scramble to respond to U.S. plan

The huddle was held ahead of a wider meeting on the same topic that would include other European leaders, it said.

Mr. Starmer had earlier said the aim was to "look at how we can strengthen this plan for the next phase of negotiations".

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said the allies should make it clear "that there should be nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine".

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance reacted to the criticism of the plan, saying it "either misunderstands the framework or misstates some critical reality on the ground". "There is a fantasy that if we just give more money, more weapons, or more sanctions, victory is at hand," he said.

Mr. Zelenskyy, in an address to the nation, said he would propose alternatives to Mr. Trump's proposal.

A top Ukrainian official on Saturday said Kyiv would launch talks with the U.S. in Switzerland to discuss ways to end the war. The delegation will be led by Mr. Zelenskyy's top aide Andriy Yermak.

Better equipped and larger in numbers, the Russian army is slowly but steadily gaining ground across the lengthy front line.

Mr. Trump has given Ukraine less than a week to sign the deal. Mr. Zelenskyy pledged to work to ensure any deal would not "betray" Ukraine's interests, acknowledging he risked losing Washington as an ally.

Russia would gain territory, be reintegrated into the global economy and rejoin the G8, under a draft of the plan. Mr. Putin said the blueprint could "lay the foundation" for a final peace settlement, but threatened more land seizures if Ukraine walked away from negotiations.

COP30 ends with plan to curb fossil fuels

This Mutirão refers to a consensus on the most contentious climate-talk issues – implementing Article 9 of the Paris Agreement that requires developed nations to mobilise funds for developing countries to shift from fossil fuels; advancing international cooperation on steps by countries to impose "trade-restrictive unilateral measures"; progress on countries' nationally determined contributions; and addressing the 1.5°C ambition and implementation gap, among others.

Developing countries (including some petro states and India) were insistent on not including language that commits countries to a timeline on eliminating fossil fuels from their economies.

Developed countries have insisted that specifying such a path is critical to keep the planet from overheating beyond 1.5°C by century end and that the finance necessary for adapting to climate change and transitioning away from fossil fuel use must mobilise money from private and public sources.

While the final Mutirao agreement did not include language on fossil fuels, the President's opening statement was seen as a placative outreach to developed countries as a way to keep conversation open on a definitive fossil fuel road map.

The President's statements do not appear in the Mutirao agreement and hence is not considered binding on countries.

Other than Mutirao, there were 10 major agreements facilitated by separate groups of countries ranging from a wide of topics such as 'just transition,' (equipping labour forces globally to adapt to new jobs, loss and damage [from current effects of climate change] and technology implementation [regarding transferring clean energy technology] as well as a 'global goal on adaptation,' that is meant to measure progress towards the world adapting to climate change).

U.P. CM pushes for stringent action on illegal immigrants

The CM issued instructions to officials to set up temporary detention centres in the districts; he says national security remains top priority

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday issued instructions to all District Magistrates to take swift and stringent action against illegal immigrants and ordered the establishment of temporary detention centres in each district to house identified infiltrators.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath says no illegal activity will be tolerated and law and order will be maintained . ANI

Zero tolerance

Mr. Adityanath highlighted that national security remains the top priority and any illegal activity will not be tolerated.

"Emphasising that law and order, national security, and social harmony remain top priorities, the CM stated that any illegal activity will not be tolerated. District administrations have been directed to identify illegal immigrants residing in their areas and take action in accordance with the law," reads an official statement issued by the Uttar Pradesh government.

"The Chief Minister has also instructed the establishment of temporary detention centres in each district to house identified infiltrators," the statement further reads.

Seven districts of Uttar Pradesh share an open border with Nepal, allowing free movement of citizens of both countries but checks on residents of other nationalities.

M.P. HC halts action against house of Al-Falah chancellor

Press Trust of India
INDORE

The Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has temporarily stayed the Mhow Cantonment Board's notice to remove "unauthorised construction" at the ancestral house of Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, the chancellor of Al-Falah University, which is at the centre of the Delhi blast probe.

The court passed the interim order on Thursday and disposed of the petition filed by a resident of the house, who had challenged the Board's notice.

Arrested on Nov. 18

Mr. Siddiqui was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on November 18.

The Board issued the notice on November 19, stating that the "unauthorised construction" must be removed within three days, failing which the Board would remove it under relevant legal provisions and recover the cost from the occupant or the legal heirs of the property owner.

Abdul Majid, who lives in the house, challenged the notice in the High Court. Mr. Majid stated in his petition that Mr. Siddiqui gave him the property in 2021 as *hiba* - Islamic gift - after his father Hammad Ahmed's death and that he owns it based on the *hibanama*.

Mr. Majid's lawyer Ajay Bagadia argued in the High Court that the Cantonment Board issued the notice without giving his client a hearing and issued a direct order to demolish the house. He argued that the petitioner should be given an opportunity to be heard.

Cantonment Board's lawyer Ashutosh Nimgaonkar contended that notices had been issued regarding this house previously, but no response was submitted, and therefore, the petitioner should not be given time to submit a response.

10 Bills listed for Winter Session of Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has listed 10 Bills for introduction in the Winter Session of Parliament, which commences on December 1.

A Bill that proposes to open up the nuclear sector for private players has been listed for introduction along with a Constitution amendment Bill that proposes to allow the President to make laws and regulations for the Union Territory of Chandigarh directly.

The Constitution (131 Amendment) Bill, 2025 seeks to include the Union Territory of Chandigarh in Article 240 of the Constitution, in alignment with other Union Territories without legislatures such as Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Puducherry (when its Legislative Assembly is dissolved or suspended).

Chandigarh is the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab. At present, the Governor of Punjab is concurrently the administrator of Chandigarh and if the Bill is passed, the Union Territory will be governed by a Lieutenant-Governor.

The Atomic Energy Bill, 2025, which seeks to govern the use and regulation of atomic energy in India; the Higher Education Commission of India Bill that proposes to set up a Higher Education Commission of India to facilitate universities and other higher educational institutes to become independent and to promote excellence through a robust and transparent system of accreditation and autonomy; the National Highways (Amendment) Bill which seeks to ensure faster and transparent land acquisition for national highways; the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which aims at tweaking the Companies Act, 2013 and LLP Act, 2008, to facilitate ease of doing business, are among other Bills listed for consideration.

The Winter Session will conclude on December 19.

Delhi Police uncover international arms trafficking network linked to Pakistan's ISI

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Crime Branch on Saturday said it had busted an international arms trafficking network allegedly linked to Pakistan's ISI-backed suppliers and arrested four key operatives involved in supplying high-end foreign-made weapons to organised crime groups across North India.

A view of weapons recovered by Delhi Crime Branch in an international arms smuggling ring linked to the Pakistani ISI. ANI

According to the police, the network sourced foreign-made weapons smuggled from Pakistan using drones and supplied them to gangsters in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The police identified the four arms smugglers as Mandeep Singh, Dalvinder Kumar, Rohan Tomar and Ajay from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

The matter came to light when the police received intelligence about a cross-border arms smuggling gang and the possibility of the smugglers coming to the capital's Rohini area to deliver arms.

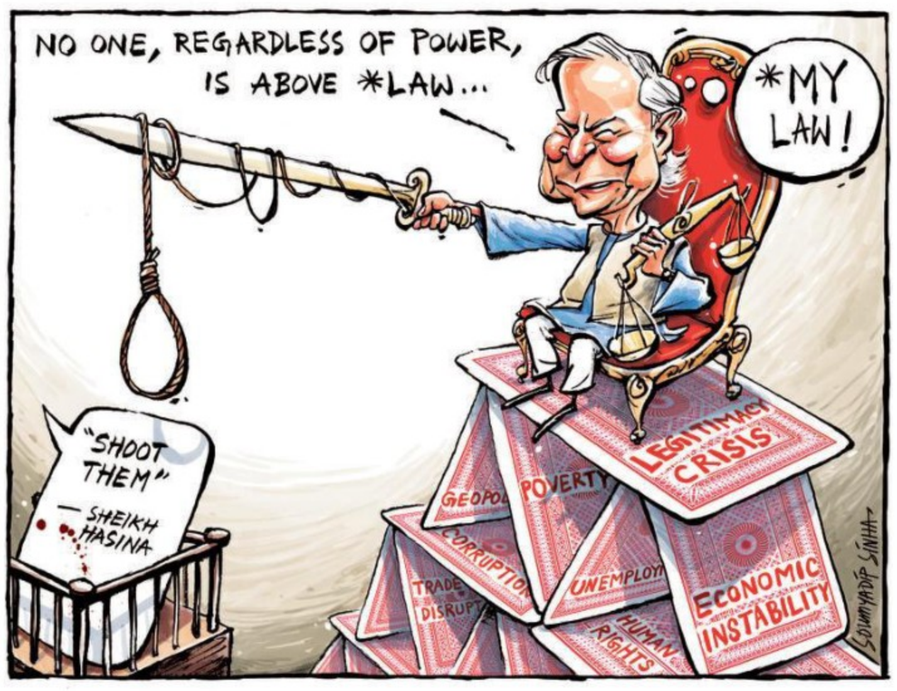
"We maintained surveillance at the area when we saw a white four-wheeler matching the description of the intelligence we received," said an officer. Upon intercepting the vehicle, the police apprehended two suspects – Mandeep and Dalvinder, and found a box containing eight high-quality, foreign-made semi-automatic pistols and 84 live cartridges (0.30 bore), said the officer. The two were booked under Sections 25 and 25 (8) of the Arms Act. Following their arrest, said the officer.

"Investigation revealed that traffickers based in Pakistan deploy customised commercial drones to drop arms, ammunition and other contraband items near vulnerable stretches of the border, primarily during late-night hours to avoid detection," said the officer. They also learnt that these drones are flown at a low altitude to evade the radar and carry small but high-value payloads.

Hawala payments

"The consignments are dropped at pre-selected GPS locations close to the border fence, where receivers on the Indian side, usually local criminals, retrieve the material. The handlers coordinate the drop through encrypted communication platforms and frequently change locations and timings to avoid pattern detection," added the officer. The network allegedly relies on local collaborators who monitor police movement, facilitate quick pick-ups, and transport the consignment to safe houses, he said, adding that payments were routed through hawala channels or proxy accounts to maintain anonymity. "They used to wrap the weapons in carbon papers so that they could not be intercepted on checking," said the officer. The four accused have several criminal charges against them, including murder, assault, NDPS and Arms Act.

On the draw



Tharoor praises meet of Trump and Mamdani; BJP takes a swipe

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Saturday praised a friendly meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, stating that "this is how democracy should work" and that he is trying to do his part in the endeavour to "see more of this in India".

'Put India first'

Responding to Mr. Tharoor's post on X, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said, "Once again Shashi Tharoor reminds Congress to put India first not Parivar; to behave democratically and not like sore losers. But will Rahul Gandhi get the message? One more Fatwa loading against Shashi???"

Earlier, Mr. Tharoor reposted a video of the meeting of Mr. Trump and Mr. Mamdani.

CAQM enforces stricter emergency pollution control measures in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the air quality of Delhi continued to be in the "very poor" category, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has made emergency pollution control measures stricter by revising the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), a set of short-term emergency measures to control air pollution.

After SC directive

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave the CAQM a free hand to take "any proactive measure" to curb air pollution throttling Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).

Till now, the CAQM directed the Delhi government and NCR State governments to stagger timings for public offices and municipal bodies in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar under Stage 3 of GRAP, but now this will happen under Stage 2 of GRAP. Stage 3 is announced when the AQI of Delhi is between 401 and 450. Similarly, Stage 2 is declared when the AQI of Delhi is between 301 and 400.

Winter woes: A thick layer of smog covers the Rashtrapati Bhavan as seen from the Kartavya Path on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Similarly, until now the CAQM directed NCR State governments and Delhi government to take a decision on allowing public, municipal, and private offices to work on 50% strength and the rest to work from home, under Stage 4 of GRAP (Delhi's AQI between 451 and 500), but now this will happen under Stage 3 of GRAP.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday distributed electric heaters to resident welfare associations (RWAs) at Dilli Haat in Pitampura for security guards on night duty. The government plans to distribute 10,000 such heaters to reduce air pollution.

"Open burning of wood, and coal is a major cause of pollution. To address this issue, the government has launched this scheme in which more than 10,000 electric heaters will be provided to various RWAs through CSR funding," the Chief Minister's Office said in a statement.

New Labour Codes anti-worker and pro-corporate: Opposition

Congress asks if they address demands for minimum wage, social security for unorganised workers, and an end to contract labour system; CPI(M) says the Codes were pushed through Parliament without proper consultation with the stakeholders

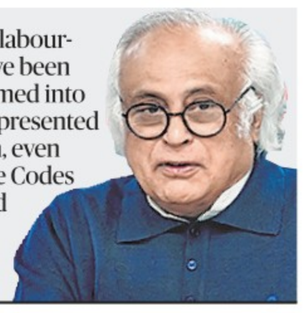
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties and several trade unions on Saturday expressed concern over the notification of the four new Labour Codes, many of them demanding that they be revoked as the Codes were "anti-worker, pro-corporate, and imposed without democratic consultation".

"The existing 29 labour-related laws have been repackaged and transformed into four codes. This is being presented as a revolutionary reform, even though the rules for these codes have not yet been notified," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

He asked if the Codes could address the demands of a national minimum wage of ₹400 per day, including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act; Right to Health Act, under which universal health coverage of ₹25 lakh will be provided; Employment Guarantee Act for urban areas; comprehensive social security for all unorganised workers, including life insurance and accident insurance; and commitment to end contract labour systems in core functions of government departments.

> The existing 29 labour-related laws have been repackaged and transformed into four Codes. This is being presented as a revolutionary reform, even though the rules for these Codes have not yet been notified
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress general secretary (communications)



Mr. Ramesh said the Narendra Modi government should learn from the examples of the Congress regime in Karnataka and the previous Rajasthan government, "which took pioneering steps toward 21st Century labour reforms by enacting historic laws for gig-workers" even before the new Codes came into effect.

'Unilateral imposition'

All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) general secretary G. Devarajan condemned the move as "unilateral imposition of anti-worker Labour Codes". Extending support to the protest of Central Trade Unions on November 26, the AIFB said it was a "blatant, unilateral, and anti-democratic implementation" of the Codes.

Mr. Devarajan said the Codes were "anti-worker, pro-corporate legislations, pushed forward under the deceptive slogan of 'ease of doing business' while brutally dismantling the hard-earned rights of India's working class".

Despite the Central trade unions and independent federations consistently opposing the Codes and repeatedly urging the government to hold consultations and convene the Indian Labour Conference, the "government chose to bypass the trade unions, ignore parliamentary debate, and bulldoze these laws solely to appease corporate monopolies and capitalist interests", he said.

'Withdraw at once'

The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) demanded that the Codes be withdrawn immediately as they sought to "establish a jungle raj by unilaterally empowering the corporate class to bulldoze the rights of workers with proactive sponsorship of the government and administration".

"The Labour Codes dismantle 29 hard-won labour laws that have, till now, protected the workers to some extent. Despite many limitations, to an extent the wages, working hours, social security, industrial safety, inspection-compliance mechanisms, and collective bargaining were in place," said the CPI(M).

Alleging that the Codes were designed to leave labour unprotected, the party said their aim was to "lure national and international capital by ensuring that all meaningful regulations covering various aspects of labour rights will be nullified…"

The Polit Bureau said the Codes were pushed without genuine consultation with stakeholders, trade unions were sidelined, and the legislation rushed through Parliament without debate.

D. Raja of the Communist Party of India (CPI), via a post on X, said: "These Codes constitute a direct assault on hard-won labour rights and represent a death knell for job security in India… these measures will prove traumatising, deepen insecurity and widen inequality across every sector…"

On Friday, a joint forum of 10 Central trade unions had condemned the notification by the government, terming it "arbitrary" and "undemocratic".

However, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-backed Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) welcomed the new Codes, saying, "The broadening of wage coverage beyond scheduled employment and extension of social security protection to new and unorganised sectors reflect forward-looking reforms aligned with aspirations of the modern workforce."

Labour experts welcome new Codes, but urge govt. to address 'teething issues'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Much will now depend on the implementation by the Centre and States, says expert

While the Centre's decision to put into effect the four Labour Codes has been welcomed by various sections, industry bodies and labour experts have said the government must now turn its attention to the implementational challenges.

Such challenges include the burden these new laws will place on smaller enterprises and the services sector, the problems associated with the overnight implementation of such sweeping changes, and the need for authorities to be conciliatory rather than over-strict with defaulters.

The Centre on Friday announced that the four labour codes it had introduced about five years ago – the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 – would be made effective from November 21, 2025.

Compliance difficulties

"21 November is a date that has, without much notice or warning, become a landmark date in the context of employment laws and labour relations in India," Atul Gupta, Partner, labour and employment practice at Trilegal said.

Mr. Gupta highlighted the fact that the immediate applicability of the new laws will make compliance somewhat difficult for companies.

"Unfortunately, with no grace period for implementation, organisations will need to take immediate cognisance of the substantive provisions of the Codes that have come into force, even while they wait for Rules to be formalised," he said.

Similarly, Rahul Ahluwalia, Founder and Director at Foundation for Economic Development, also said that the new Labour Codes would reduce the compliance burden for manufacturers, while also providing States greater flexibility on aspects such as retrenchment thresholds and quarterly caps on working hours.

That said, Mr. Ahluwalia also said that the new labour codes also raise some new concerns. "The services sector will now be affected by a lot of the rigid laws that used to cover only factories earlier," he explained. "The government will need to stay flexible while ironing out wrinkles of implementation to ensure that we don't disrupt sectors that are working well, and simultaneously encourage new investment."

Mr. Gupta cautioned organisations to pause and assess any material employment related actions right now, and seek legal guidance "to ensure that they do not unwittingly fall afoul of these new codes".

Anshul Prakash, Partner at Khaitan & Co, said that a lot would now depend on the implementation by the Centre and the States.

"Much would now depend on the ground level machinery of facilitators at Central and State levels who will be expected to approach the enforcement of these laws with a conciliatory mindset instead of that of prosecution for any non-compliance," Mr. Prakash said.

Collegium cleared 93 names for HC judges during my tenure: CJI Gavai

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Outgoing Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai placed in the public domain the names and social details of candidates approved by his Collegium, with women as a class outnumbering those from Other Backward Classes, Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes.

Of a total 129 names considered for High Court appointments since May 14, when Chief Justice Gavai took over as top judge, the Collegium approved 93 names. The candidates hailed from both the lower judiciary and the Bar.

Of these, women were 15 while OBC/BC candidates were 11, names from Scheduled Caste communities were 10, minorities 13 and those related to judges were five.

CJI B.R. Gavai

Four of the women candidates belonged to minority communities while one hailed from a Scheduled Caste community.

Chief Justice Gavai, who is retiring on November 23, has continued this tradition of transparency begun by his predecessor Justice Sanjiv Khanna in May 2025.

In May, the Supreme Court had released the entire details of 221 names approved by the Supreme Court Collegiums headed by the then CJIs, Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Khanna, now retired.

Those figures had shown that only half of the names recommended by the State governments and High Court Collegiums were approved by the Supreme Court Collegium after intensive vetting and background checks.

A total of 303 names were recommended during Justice Chandrachud's two-year tenure as top judge from November 9, 2022 to November 10, 2024. The Chandrachud Collegium had approved a little over half, 170 names.

While a dozen of these names which passed muster were related to sitting or former Supreme Court or High Court judges, the number of names drawn from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Most Backward and Backward communities were in single digits, seven, five and seven, respectively.

Twenty-one candidates approved by the Chandrachud Collegium had belonged to the Other Backward Communities (OBC), women numbered 28. A total of 23 candidates were drawn from the minorities.

From November 10, 2024, with Justice Khanna helming the Collegium, it had received 103 names of which 51 were approved, again a little over half. Among these Collegium approved candidates, only two had relatives in the judiciary.

Seventeen names approved by previous Collegiums were appointed as High Court judges during Chief Justice Gavai's tenure as top judge. Of this, one was a woman advocate from a minority community.

'Major hurdle will be to chip away at the 90,000 pending cases in the SC'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India-designate Justice Surya Kant on Saturday said one of the biggest challenges in his tenure as top judge would be to bring 90,000 pending cases in the Supreme Court down to a "manageable" number. Even as he spoke at 7 Krishna Menon Marg to mediapersons, the number in the National Judicial Data Grid climbed to 90,225.

Justice Kant said he did not want to engage in a blame-game on who was responsible for the staggering number of arrears in the top court – the highest in the court's history.

"I will not pick fault on who is responsible. That is irrelevant," he said in an informal interaction ahead of taking oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on Monday. He indicated at taking a studied and practical approach to resolve the perennial burden of pendency.

Justice Surya Kant

One of the measures, he said, would be to identify crucial cases with important questions of law which have been pending for years in the apex court.

Trickle-down effect

These pending cases, the judge noted, have a trickle-down effect. They stall lower courts, or even the Supreme Court, from deciding individual cases with connected issues.

Untying the knot in these core cases through authoritative declarations of law by Constitution Benches would allow judges, from the Supreme Court to the district courts, to dispose of the connected cases pending with them.

"I will constitute nine-judge and seven-judge Benches for such cases. The identification of these cases with important questions of law, because of which thousands of cases are pending, will be prioritised," he said.

He added that he had already sought information from the High Courts on long-pending cases.

Asked if the Supreme Court may itself be contributing to the pendency by entertaining miscellaneous applications on cases in which binding judgments have already been delivered, Justice Kant said there have been instances of the court re-looking 30-year-old cases in which judgments were pronounced.

'Approach HCs first'

The judge indicated that one of the reasons for the high rate of filing, besides online access, may be litigants opting to move the Supreme Court directly rather than approaching High Courts first. "High Courts are equally constitutional bodies," Justice Kant emphasised.

The CJI-designate termed mediation a "game-changer" in dispute resolution.

"This [encouraging mediation as an alternative] is my first and foremost agenda," Justice Kant said.

SC's opinion on Presidential Reference is 'disappointing' and 'ambiguous', says CPI(M)

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Saturday expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court's response to the Presidential Reference, saying it will only "encourage the extra-constitutional powers Governors are exercising in Opposition-ruled States".

The party said the top court's response "will not in any way check the assault on the rights of States that is ongoing due to the over-centralisation of powers in the hands of the Centre".

The Supreme Court last Thursday held that the court could not impose any timelines on Governors and the President to grant assent to Bills passed by the Assemblies, but at the same time, said, Governors do not have "unfettered" powers to sit on the Bills for "perpetuity".

> The response is devoid of any constitutional checks on the arbitrary functioning of governors acting as political agents of the Centre
>
> Communist Party of India (Marxist)

In a statement issued on Saturday, the Left party reiterated that the top court's opinion on the Presidential Reference was "disappointing", and that it was devoid of any constitutional checks and balances on the "arbitrary functioning of governors who are acting as political agents of the Centre".

The Left party said that "particularly retrograde" was the suggestion that a Governor was not bound to give assent to a Bill which had been adopted a second time by the State legislature after it was sent for reconsideration by the Governor. The Governor can instead refer the Bill to the President and thereby get it indefinitely delayed, it said.

"The only relief given is that in the face of a prolonged inaction by the Governor on a pending Bill, there can be limited judicial intervention. This, too, is ambiguous and vague, since there is no definition as to what constitutes prolonged inaction or delay," the statement added.

Do not need anybody's permission for MNS tie-up: Sena (UBT) on Cong. stance

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Saturday rebuked the Congress over its stance on the inclusion of Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena in the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) bloc.

"We don't need anybody's permission or order," Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said on his X handle. This came even as the NCP (SP) said that it would want all forces to stay united to fight against the BJP.

"We won't take MNS together unless there is an order from Delhi, says Mumbai Congress. This can be an individual decision of the Congress. Shiv Sena (UBT) and MNS have already come together as per the wishes of the people. We don't need anybody's permission or order for that. Sharad Pawar and the Left parties are also together. Save Mumbai," Mr. Raut stated in his tweet.

Sharing stage: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray at Balasaheb Thackeray's death anniversary event. PTI

The post came even as an NCP(SP) meeting, chaired by party president Sharad Pawar, was held in Mumbai on Saturday to seek the local leaders' opinion on the alliances in the upcoming local body polls.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, NCP(SP) leader Jitendra Awhad said, "The local leaders expressed their desire in front of *Saaheb* [Sharad Pawar] that the MVA should fight together along with all other smaller parties and Left parties. Be it the Samajwadi Party or the Peasants and Workers' Party or the Ambedkarite parties." When asked whether Sharad Pawar will mediate between the Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) to bring Raj Thackeray's MNS onboard, Mr. Awhad said, "Everyone knows Sharad Pawar's stance that he thinks that everyone should come together to fight the BJP."

Mumbai Cong. stand

Meanwhile, the Congress refused to comment on the developments on Saturday.

"We have already made our position clear. We cannot join hands with divisive forces. We also believe that the NCP(SP) and Congress are natural allies. Every party is free to take its own decision. Shiv Sena (UBT) has changed positions till now," Mumbai Regional Congress Committee (MRCC) president Varsha Gaikwad told *The Hindu*.

Cong. ignored Sardar Patel's contribution, says BJP chief

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday hailed the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in uniting the country, and alleged that India's first Deputy Prime Minister did not receive the honour he "truly deserved" for four decades after Independence due to the Congress "conspiracy".

If anyone had placed Sardar Patel in the "correct and rightful place" in the country's history, it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Nadda said.

The BJP chief made these remarks here at an event after flagging off '@150 Unity March' to mark the birth anniversary of Patel, who also served as India's first Home Minister.

INBRIEF

President to lead Constitution Day ceremony at Central Hall

President Droupadi Murmu will lead the Constitution Day celebrations in the Central Hall of the old Parliament building on Wednesday. Besides the President, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will attend the event, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said. Constitution Day, or *Samvidhan Divas*, is observed to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949. While some of the provisions of the Constitution came into force immediately, the rest came into effect on January 26, 1950 when India became a republic. Before 2015, the day was observed as Law Day. PTI

Nearly 18 acres of illegal poppy destroyed in Manipur

Security forces destroyed nearly 18 acres of illegal poppy cultivation in Manipur's Churachandpur and Tengnoupal districts, police said on Saturday. "A combined team of district police, Assam Rifles, forest department, and Narcotics and Affairs of Border (NAB) conducted an operation in Churachandpur on Friday," a senior officer said. "Security forces, in collaboration with the Tengnoupal district administration and the Machi Forest Division, also destroyed nearly 10 acres of poppy plantation on Friday in the Machi hill range," the officer added. The State government had previously issued warnings against widespread poppy planting. PTI

Pune police bust weapons units in M.P. village; 47 held

The Pune Police on Saturday searched illegal arms-manufacturing units at Umarti village in Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh, leading to the detention of 47 people and seizure of illegal weapons and materials, a senior officer said. He said four factories had been demolished, and two pistols, five magazines, and various materials used for manufacturing arms were seized. The search was conducted by a team comprising personnel from the Crime Branch and officials of the wireless, drone, surveillance, and cyber sections. "As many as 47 people have been detained, while four factories were demolished," a senior police officer said. PTI

Arunachal CM announces ILP overhaul to aid monitoring

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has announced that the State government is set to implement a comprehensive digital overhaul of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system, terming it the "most significant step" in enhancing the monitoring of non-Arunachali visitors. The Chief Minister said that the digital integration process had been under way for nearly three years and was now in the final stage. Arunachal Pradesh is protected under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, which requires all non-residents, including Indian citizens from outside the State, to obtain an ILP before entering. PTI

BLO dead; Mamata says SIR is causing fatalities

How many more lives will be lost, and how many more need to die for SIR, asks CM; 52-year-old officer had said that the work had been humiliating; she is the third BLO to die in West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A woman booth-level officer (BLO) in Nadia district of West Bengal was found dead on Saturday, prompting Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to ask how many lives the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls would cost in the State.

"How many more lives will be lost? How many more need to die for this SIR? How many more dead bodies shall we see for this process? This has become truly alarming now!!" Ms. Banerjee posted on social media. The Chief Minister, while sharing the identity of the deceased BLO, said, "Rinku Tarafdar has blamed the EC in her suicide note before committing suicide at her residence today."

The 52-year-old BLO was engaged in the SIR in the Chapra Assembly constituency, and her family members said she had been under pressure for filing enumeration forms. The Chief Minister shared the officer's handwritten note in Bengali on her social media handle. The BLO had written that she had completed 95% of the offline work, but was unable to manage the online tasks. The woman, who had been working as a para teacher at a local school in Krishnanagar, said the work as BLO had been humiliating.

Vocal protest: BLOs protesting near the Chief Electoral Officer's office in Kolkata demanding relief from excessive workload. PTI

This is the third death of a BLO in West Bengal after the SIR process started. Shanti Muni Ekka in Mal, Jalpaiguri, died by suicide, and Namita Hansda from Purba Bardhaman died after a brain haemorrhage.

Last Thursday, Ms. Banerjee wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to halt the SIR process. She had said that the human cost of the management of the exercise had become unbearable.

In her communication to Mr. Kumar, the Chief Minister said many BLOs were under extreme pressure, and were being pushed to "submit incorrect or incomplete entries – risking disenfranchisement of genuine voters and eroding the integrity of the electoral roll".

Trinamool meets CEO

A delegation of Trinamool Congress leaders on Saturday visited the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal and said 34 people in the State had died during the SIR exercise and demanded that the EC take responsibility for these deaths. Representatives of the BLOs submitted a memorandum to the CEO demanding compensation to the next of kin of those who had died. The BJP leadership in Bengal has said these deaths had nothing to do with the SIR process.

(Those in distress can seek help by calling Kolkata Lifeline Foundation: 033-24637401/32.)

Four BLOs die in two weeks in M.P.; Cong. blames govt.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Congress accuses BJP leaders of 'forcing' the officers to remove names of voters from the rolls

In the wake of the death of four booth-level officers in two weeks in Madhya Pradesh, Congress State president Jitu Patwari on Saturday accused the government and BJP leaders of "forcing" the officers to remove names from the voter list, resulting in their deaths from stress.

One booth-level officer died in Raisen district on Thursday and another in Damoh on Friday. Their families blamed work pressure and stress linked to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls for their death.

Sitaram Gond, 51, a government teacher who was appointed a BLO for Ranjra and another village in Damoh, was involved in filling enumeration forms when he fell ill. Damoh Sub-Divisional Magistrate R.L. Bagri told *The Hindu* that Mr. Gond was taken to the District Hospital and then referred to Jabalpur.

At his Pathari Bandakpur village, Mr. Gond's family alleged that he was dealing with work pressure as he had finished only 13-14% of the assigned work of covering more than 1,300 voters.

However, the SDM said the SIR work was "going on smoothly" in the area.

In Raisen, Ramakant Pandey, 50, a teacher in Satlapur area of Mandideep town, collapsed and died after attending an online meeting on Thursday night.

Mr. Pandey's eldest son, Amit Pandey, said his father had been stressed about work for the past few days as he "feared getting suspended if he made a mistake". "He had to deal with strict deadlines and had been constantly working for five or six days," he said.

Mr. Patwari alleged that the SIR was being used to delete names of voters from the rolls.

Singer Shankar Mahadevan performs at an event at the Gateway of India to mark the 17th anniversary of the 26/11 attack. ANI

'Operation Sindoor-like action after 26/11 may have deterred attacks'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said had India taken an Operation Sindoor-like action after the November 2008 Mumbai terror attack, no one would have dared to target the country again.

Speaking at an event at the Gateway of India to mark the 17th anniversary of the 26/11 attack, Mr. Fadnavis said it was not merely an attack on the Taj and Trident hotels. Mumbai is the economic capital of India, and an attack on the city was an attack on the sovereignty of the country, he said.

"Had we understood this and shown the courage to conduct an 'Operation Sindoor' then, nobody would have dared to attack us again," he said. India carried out military action under Operation Sindoor, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack of April 2025.

Largest disenfranchisement in India on with West Bengal SIR: activists

Staff Reporter
KOLKATA

Psephologist and activist Yogendra Yadav and economist Parakala Prabhakar were among the public intellectuals who here on Saturday forecast "the highest disenfranchisement in the history of the nation" in West Bengal with the special intensive revision (SIR) of voters' lists. The exercise is part of the BJP's "misuse of state machinery" ahead of the Assembly election, they said.

"From the very first day, I have maintained that SIR was always meant for Bengal. Bihar was just the testing ground... SIR is a vote-*bandi* exercise set to undermine the universality of India's universal adult franchise," Mr. Yadav said at a public event organised by the Educationists' Forum, West Bengal, and Desh Bachao Gano Mancha, both civil society groups.

If the number of deletions from the electoral roll touches one crore, as predicted by BJP leaders including Suvendu Adhikari, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, West Bengal will "witness the largest ever disenfranchisement in the history of India, if not the world," he said.

Making a point: Activist Yogendra Yadav and others at a press meet on the special intensive revision in Kolkata on Saturday. PTI

'Bengal is the target'

"It is no secret that the BJP is desperate to win Bengal. They will use unlimited money power and misuse state machinery to do so, without compunction... Bengal is really the target for the SIR. Delimitations will happen later but it is clearly an instrument to reduce the electoral weight of those States where the BJP is not sure of its support," the political activist said.

Citing the Assam Accord and the October 2024 Supreme Court judgment concerning foreign immigrants in Assam, Mr. Yadav said that if the Election Commission was concerned about illegal immigrants or refugees, "Assam should have been the first State for the SIR exercise".

On October 27, the Election Commission of India announced the SIR of voters' lists in nine States and three Union Territories including West Bengal, following the completion of the exercise in Bihar.

Mr. Prabhakar, economist, called the SIR a "bloodless political genocide" meant to deprive a large number of people of the fundamental political right to vote, and to eliminate meaningful participants from the political process. He said that an exercise to remove the names of dead, duplicate, and permanently shifted voters should not be used to target religion, ethnicity, or linguistic groups. The process of filling up the enumeration form would be exclusionary for weaker sections of society who were deprived of education and resources, he said.

Academic and political activist Om Prakash Mishra claimed that the SIR would result in the largest disenfranchised population in the world, in India.

SUDOKU

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No.SS6709 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	9	8	5	3	7	4	6
4	5	6	2	7	9	3	8	1
8	7	3	1	6	4	9	2	5
3	6	8	7	9	1	4	5	2
5	4	7	6	8	2	1	9	3
9	2	1	4	3	5	6	7	8
6	3	2	5	4	7	8	1	9
1	8	4	9	2	6	5	3	7
7	9	5	3	1	8	2	6	4

The four-footed warriors in the President's Bodyguard

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India's elite mounted troopers, the President's Bodyguard and their equine warriors, who participate in almost 70 mounted parades and rehearsals each year, have started their annual cycle of training for India's most prestigious ceremonial events – Republic Day, Beating Retreat, and the opening day of Parliament.

Inside the first citizen's home, aided by modernisation – in terms of covered and self-sustaining training arenas and a closely monitored feeding routine assisted with supplements – the final selection of horses is pending. Nearly half of the 100-odd horses of the regiment will be chosen.

This year's parade will see a mix of veterans and young horses showcasing the discipline, training, and tradition that goes into making the Household Cavalry of the President's House.

The President's Bodyguard is the senior-most regiment of the Army and has the dual mandate of operational capability in war and serving as the Household Cavalry of the President in times of peace.

Selection criteria

"Every horse (typically standing at 157 cm or more) undergoes rigorous evaluation before induction," Commandant Amit Berwal told presspersons during a tour of the Rashtrapati Bhavan stables. "Horses must exhibit a steady temperament under noise, crowds and they should have a powerful, fluid gait, ability to adapt to ceremonial equipment, and overall sound health and build. The regiment now primarily employs Indian horses bred by the Indian Army," he added.

Galloping on: President's Bodyguard horses getting ready for the Republic Day parade at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

He said every horse underwent deliberate and continuous training, being taught to walk, trot, and canter with discipline.

The horses are then gradually desensitised to drums, crowds, and even gunfire, ensuring their composure under pressure.

The horses are trained to perform for extended periods, maintain precise spacing, and respond to subtle cues.

The new covered training arena and parade grounds enable daily mounted training, ensuring that the horses remain in peak condition.

"For us, every appearance of these horses is a blend of discipline, tradition and a spectacle witnessed by millions across India and the world," Colonel Berwal said.

A horse's daily routine begins with early grooming, followed by exercise, mid-day rest, and an evening grooming session.

Horses are provided with a carefully balanced diet of grains, concentrates, and green fodder, tailored to their metabolism, temperament, and workload.

Regular health check-ups, farrier care, and rigorous stable maintenance keep them healthy.

A lifetime of service

When a horse reaches the retirement age, typically between the ages of 18 and 22, it is relocated to an Army Remount and Veterinary Corps Depot.

Some horses, however, are commemorated within the regiment for their unique service.

Viraat, for instance, who was awarded the Chief of the Army Staff commendation card in 2022 and patted by the President and Prime Minister during that year's Republic Day parade, has been adopted by the President's Bodyguard post-retirement.

A trooper often partners with the same horse for extended periods, said Colonel Berwal, fostering mutual trust, a predictable response during high-pressure ceremonies, and heightened discipline. "For us, the horse becomes an integral part of the soldier's identity," he said.

INBRIEF

Air India reinstates codeshare partnership with Air Canada

Air India on Saturday announced the reinstatement of its codeshare partnership with Air Canada, which was suspended more than five years ago during the coronavirus pandemic. The codeshare agreement will enable Air India to offer passengers access to six points across Canada beyond its gateways at Vancouver and London (Heathrow). A codeshare partnership allows passengers to travel on a single ticket on different flights. PTI

Sagarmala Finance Corp to raise ₹8,000 crore this fiscal

Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) will raise ₹8,000 crore in the current financial year from banks, financial institutions and through bonds to further boost the maritime prowess of the nation. SMFCL, formerly known as Sagarmala Development Company Limited, is India's first maritime sector-specific Non-Banking Financial Company. At a recently-held annual general meeting , the board also approved the overall borrowing limit of ₹25,000 crore. PTI

Data-driven governance a key pillar for Viksit Bharat: CAG

Highlighting the vital role young civil servants play in shaping governance across sectors, CAG K. Sanjay Murthy outlined three key pillars for Viksit Bharat – expanding access, promoting data-driven governance and strengthening institutional maturity in financial management. The Comptroller andAuditor General of India was delivering the Viksit Bharat talk at the 100th Common Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie, on Friday evening. PTI

Dark patterns stay for consumers, gig staff post self-audit

Researchers and a startup said there were still 'dark patterns' left to address, tricking consumers into paying more, workers into earning less

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

It's Dark.com: There is a lot of awareness on the consumer side" for dark patterns, but not enough for those impacting workers.

While the Central Consumer Protection Authority has obtained declarations from most major e-commerce platforms that they have eliminated "dark patterns" from their services, consumer groups and researchers say these still exist on many digital platforms.

Dark patterns are deceptive practices used to trick consumers into paying more. A recent report by the Centre for Responsible AI (CeRAI) at IIT Madras shows the gamut includes at least one more effect: misleading gig workers into getting paid less.

The report, published in September, lists a few of the dark patterns gig workers are faced with: false urgency, where workers are shown a countdown timer to indicate a job will disappear if they don't act fast enough to accept it; wage concealment, where workers are not shown the potential earnings from a job until they accept it with potential penalties for cancelling an accepted job; "excessive monitoring" of workers, including real-time access to their device's microphone and "unfair deactivations" where no clear reason is given to workers for being deactivated.

'Transparency gaps'

In an interview, Krishnan Narayanan and Omir Kumar, who prepared the report for CeRAI, told *The Hindu* while there are transparency gaps in how these apps function – "algorithmic opacity," as Mr. Narayan puts it – the above individual practices add to the problem. "There is a lot of awareness on the consumer side" for dark patterns, Mr. Kumar said, but not enough for those impacting workers.

"Sometimes, that's just the nature of two-sided platforms like this," Mr. Narayanan said, referring to aggregators like delivery services connecting users and gig workers. However, the researchers said, this would have to be a part of firms' self-audit on dark patterns. Mr. Kumar said he wasn't convinced the government needed to specify prescriptive guidelines to that end though: "You need some sort of gamification on these platforms, and strict guidelines may disrupt how they function," he said.

Consumer side

Sachin Taparia, founder of the online polling startup LocalCircles, said his firm had conducted dark pattern audits of hundreds of platforms on the consumer side, and several patterns persisted, even among firms who certified to the CCPA that they have got rid of them. "The only thing some platforms fixed is drip pricing and basket sneaking," he added.

Higher prices hit household budgets, especially lower- and middle- income consumers.

Manufacturing in U.S. slows in Nov. as tariffs hit demand

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. factory activity slowed to a four-month low in November as higher prices because of tariffs on imports restrained demand, leading to a piling up of unsold goods that could hinder growth in the overall economy.

Relief for manufacturers is unlikely to come soon as the University of Michigan's Surveys of Consumers separately showed on Friday a sharp drop in buying conditions for long-lasting manufactured goods. The University of Michigan noted that"consumers remain frustrated about the persistence of high prices and weakening incomes."

President Donald Trump's sweeping import duties raised prices, straining household budgets, especially for lower- and middle-income consumers. A robust stock market boosted spending for higher-income households, creating what economists say a K-shaped economy.

'SEBI must focus on investor education, eligibility norms'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India headquarters.

Amid growing number of investors losing in Futures & Options (F&O) and talks afloat to reduce the expiry days, the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI) has written to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), urging investor education and eligibility norms take precedence over product restrictions such as changes to expiry dates in derivatives contracts.

In its submission to SEBI Chairman Tuhin Pandey, the association lauded his recent reassurance that "current certainty is that weekly F&O is on" and welcomed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's call to establish trading academies nationwide to boost investor capability.

ANMI emphasised sustainable reduction in retail investor losses can only come from structured training and awareness.

Knowledge vital

"Regulation can build guardrails, but only knowledge builds resilience," the association said, adding tinkering with product structures such as varying expiry days of indices like Nifty 50, Sensex or Nifty Bank would not address the underlying issue of inadequate investor understanding.

Citing SEBI's March 2025 report, ANMI noted 91% of individual traders suffered net losses in FY2025, with aggregate losses widening by 41% to ₹1.05 lakh crore.

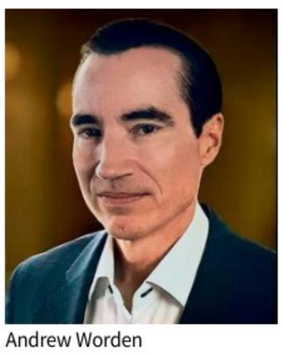
"Establishing thousands of such academies across India must be treated as a national priority," wrote K. Suresh, national president, ANMI in the letter.

Adding perspective to the cultural and psychological barriers facing Indian investors, Vijay Sardana, a techno legal expert and independent director on various boards & member of expert committee, said, "As India's financial markets expand and become more complex, the ideal way to reduce trading losses of individual investors and traders is by educating them about the capital markets.

As per SEBI Investor Survey 2025, only 36% of existing investors had even moderate to high knowledge of market concepts, while two-thirds displayed low financial literacy. The survey also found fewer than 1% respondents ever attended an investor-education programme, though 70% of those who did found it useful.

GameChange Solar to boost transformer making capacity

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI



Andrew Worden

GameChange Solar, which makes solar trackers and transformers, plans to raise transformer manufacturing capacity in India sixfold through its new unit called GameChange BOS.

The company, which has built a greenfield, medium-voltage transformer manufacturing plant in Taloja, Maharashtra has a production capacity of 1,800-2,000 units annually, which, according to the company's executive chairman and founder Andrew Worden, was "by far the largest in the country for that category."

"A second, larger factory is already planned, and a third facility is under consideration at a separate site. Once all facilities are operational, the company expects its transformer capacity to be around six times its current scale, enabling it to serve both global markets and a portion of the domestic demand," Mr. Worden said in interview.

He did not divulge the quantum of investment to be made in India saying the company is privately held.

"This will put GameChange BOS at a position to contribute about 25%-33% to the company's total revenue," he added.

'Customer driven'

He said the company's customer-driven approach led to expansion into transformers. "Two years ago, we asked our customers what they needed next. They wanted transformers," he explained, which led to the creation of GameChange BOS.

For GameChange Solar, the expansion marks a "virtuous cycle" -using the strength of its global tracker business to build high-value manufacturing in India, while continuing to work to lowering the cost of clean energy worldwide.

"We are exporting quite a bit to the U.S. from India today, even with the 50% tariffs," he added.

'Byju to pay over $1 bn to BYJU's Alpha, GLAS Trust'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A U.S. court has ordered Byju Raveendran to pay back default amount of $1.16 billion to BYJU's Alpha and U.S.-based lender GLAS Trust Company LLC.

According to a judgment dated November 20, the Delaware Bankruptcy Court found Mr. Raveendran failed to comply with its discovery order and continued to be evasive on several occasions.

Based on petitions

The judgment was given based on the petition filed by BYJU's Alpha and GLAS Trust Company LLC and follows a dispute between Byju's and U.S. based lenders on Term Loan B fund.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public **that our client Mr.B.Darshan S/o. Mr.C.Balakrishnan** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs.Madhavi R D/o Late Ramachandran and Late Mrs.Neelamma** person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing **Site No.57,** BBMP e-PID No.1436530365, Situated at **Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore,** Measuring East to West **40 Feet,** North to South **30 Feet,** totally Measuring **1200 Square Feet,** along with 2 Square AC Sheet Roofed house standing thereon, Presently coming under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.24, and bounded on the:

East by : Property No.36 West by : Property No.29, North by : 25 Feet Road South by : Private Property

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
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E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute
Nagpur-440 020, Maharashtra
Website: http://www.neeri.res.in

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Date of commencement of Online Applications: 24.11.2025 (Monday) at 10:00 AM
Closing date for submission of Online Applications: 23.12.2025 (Tuesday) at 05:00 PM

Advertisement No.: CSIR-NEERI/2/2025 **Dated: 10th Nov., 2025**

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Nagpur, a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of S&T, Govt. of India, invites online applications from Indian Citizens for the following positions:

Advertisement No.	Name of Position	No. of Vacancies & Reservations	Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)	#Age Limit
CSIR-NEERI/2/2025	Scientist	14 [UR- 04, EWS-02, OBC (NCL)- 04, SC- 02, ST-01 & PwBD-(HH) UR-01.	Level-11 (Rs.67,700-2,08,700)	32 Years

#Upper age limit as on the last date of online application, please see the detailed advertisement for age relaxations.

For detailed advertisement, Terms & Conditions and to apply ONLINE, please visit CSIR-NEERI' official website **https://neeri.res.in** (refer to the links: HRD Recruitment Permanent Staff). All further announcements/details pertaining to this process/updates/corrigendum/addendum etc. will be published/ provided only on the CSIR-NEERI' official website **https://neeri.res.in** from time to time.

Controller of Administration
CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur

cbc36213/12/0003/2526

boAt local output surges on supply chain strategy

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Consumer electronics brand boAt of Imagine Marketing Ltd. said local manufacturing surged to 76% due to India-focused supply chain strategy.

boAt's domestic production soared from 39.65% in FY23 to 75.83% in Q1 FY26 and as of June 30, the company had manufactured more than 75 million units in India following its strategic shift towards component-level localisation.

In Q1 FY26 alone, boAt produced 6.36 million units domestically.

'100% FDI in insurance Bill in Winter session of Parliament'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Nirmala Sitharaman

The government proposes to introduce a bill to raise foreign direct investment in the insurance sector to 100% in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament.

The session is slated to begin on December 1 and continue till December 19. with 15 working days.

According to a Lok Sabha bulletin, the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025, which seeks to deepen penetration, accelerate growth and development of the insurance sector and enhance ease of doing business, is part of the 10 legislations listed for the upcoming session of the Parliament.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in this year's Budget speech, proposed to raise the foreign investment limit to 100% from the existing 74% in the insurance sector as part of new-generation financial sector reforms.

So far, the insurance sector has attracted ₹82,000 crore through foreign direct investment (FDI). The Finance Ministry proposed amending provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, including raising FDI in the insurance sector to 100%, reducing paid-up capital, and introducing a composite licence.

As part of a comprehensive legislative exercise, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act 1999 will be amended, alongside Insurance Act 1938.

PASTEUR INSTITUTE OF INDIA
COONOOR 643 103, NILGIRIS, TAMILNADU
Advt. No. 01/2025 dated 17.11.2025

Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor is one of the pioneer Institutes in the production of AntiRabies Vaccine and DPT group of Vaccines. This Institute is functioning as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi.

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for appointment to the following Direct Recruitment posts possessing the prescribed qualifications/ experience mentioned in the detailed advertisement.

S. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Level as per 7th CPC	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	UR	Total
1.	Assistant Research Officer	Level – 7 (Rs.44900-142400)	1	-	1	1	2	5
2.	Research Assistant	Level – 6 (Rs.35400-112400)	5	2	5	2	12	26
3.	Office Superintendent	Level – 6 (Rs.35400-112400)	1	-	1	1	3	6
4.	Library Information Assistant	Level – 6 (Rs.35400-112400)	-	-	-	-	1	1
5.	Junior Engineer (Safety)	Level – 6 (Rs.35400-112400)	-	-	-	-	1	1
6.	Junior Engineer (Mechanical)	Level – 6 (Rs.35400-112400)	-	-	-	-	1	1
7.	Junior Engineer (Instrumentation)	Level – 6 (Rs.35400-112400)	-	-	-	-	1	1
	TOTAL							**41**

Online application portal available in the Common Recruitment Examination-4 conducted by AIIMS at their website www.aiimsexams.ac.in upto 02.12.2025 by 5.00 PM.

For detailed eligibility criteria, please see detailed advertisement on our website **www.pasteurinstituteindia.in**.

DIRECTOR

cbc17178/12/0004/2526

High costs, poor training deepen India's stinging snakebite toll

Divya Gandhi

The World Health Organization recognises snakebite envenomation as a "neglected tropical disease" that causes 0.8-1.3 lakh worldwide every year, with four-times the number left with physical disabilities.

Here, "India bears the largest burden of snakebite envenomation globally, accounting for nearly half of the world's snakebite deaths," per a new study in *Nature Communications*.

Nearly half the victims of snakebites die outside hospitals in India. Without prompt antivenom, death or permanent maiming is inevitable, especially by the fangs of the country's "big four": Indian cobra, common krait, Russell's viper (responsible for most bites), and saw-scaled viper.

"India's official statistics have long under-reported the true number of cases and deaths," the paper continued, adding that recent estimates suggest 45,000-58,000 people die every year due to snakebites. Many of those that survive have to deal with the long-term effects.

The clinical outcome of a snakebite depends on the amount of venom injected, the size of the snake, and the toxicity of the venom from that particular snake, Kartik Sunagar, associate professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences in Bengaluru told *The Hindu*. "If a significant amount of venom is injected and the patient does not receive antivenom treatment, survival is unlikely."

The researchers also found the average "out-of-pocket expenditure" could be debilitating for the already impoverished. Treatment can cost ₹3,900 at public facilities around ₹27,400 at private ones.

They added that quick access to hospitals, better antivenoms, and health insurance are "urgently needed" to prevent deaths.

In one instance, the researchers found that only 12% of victims had insurance cover "in spite of the fact that each BPL card holder is eligible to the Ayushman Jan Aarogya health card, which provides for free treatment in public sector and select empanelled hospitals in the corporate sector."

"Healthcare providers are often inadequately trained to handle snakebite envenoming and its complications," the paper added. Patients also delay their visits to medical facilities when they bank on faith healers.

There is thus an urgent need "for next-generation therapies to address the severe morbid symptoms associated with snakebites," Dr. Sunagar said.

COVID-19 virus poses higher risks in kids than vaccines: study

By showing that rare heart, clotting, and inflammatory complications remain elevated for months after infection but barely rise after vaccination, a new study strengthens the case for continuing paediatric COVID-19 shots to protect children

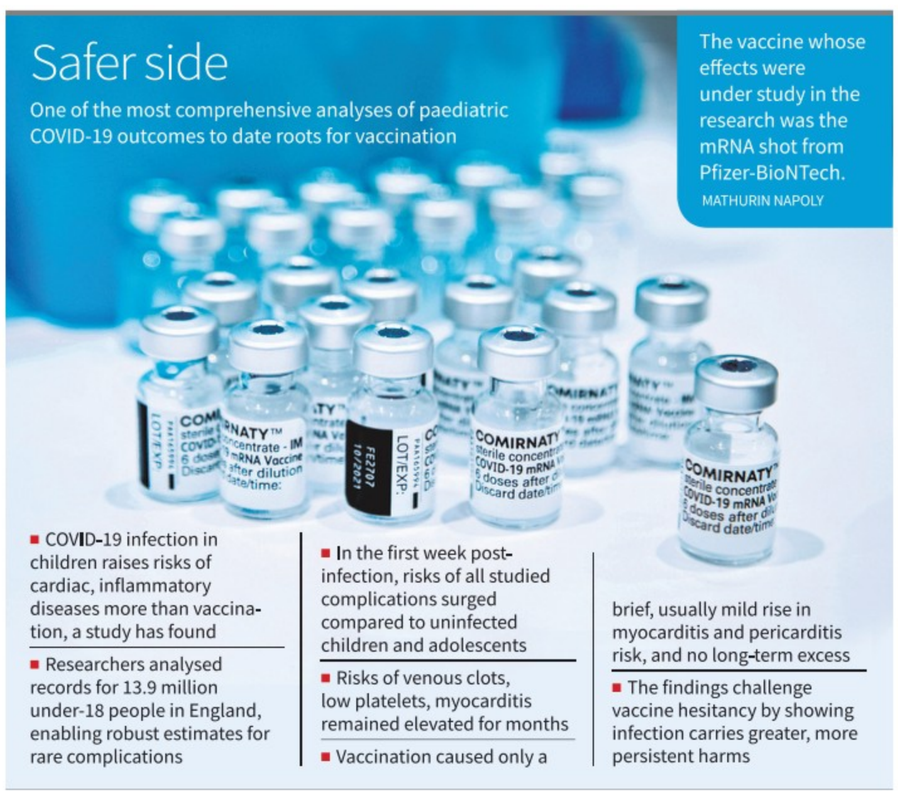
Vipin M. Vashishtha

A large study in the U.K. has reported that children and adolescents are at substantially more risk of developing heart inflammation, blood clots, and other vascular and inflammatory diseases after COVID-19 infection than after vaccination.

In the population-based cohort study, published in *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, researchers from the University of Cambridge, supported by the Wellcome Trust, the British Heart Foundation, and Health Data Research U.K., drew on the health records of nearly 14 million individuals under 18 in England between January 2020 and December 2022. Of these, about 3.9 million had a documented COVID-19 diagnosis. Around 3.4 million aged 5-17 years had received at least one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The researchers compared the short- and long-term risks of five groups of rare but serious conditions after the first COVID-19 diagnosis and after the first vaccine dose. These conditions were arterial and venous thrombotic events, thrombocytopenia, myocarditis and pericarditis, and systemic inflammatory diseases such as paediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C).

In the first week following infection, children and adolescents had a higher risk across every measured outcome compared to those never infected. The likelihood of systemic inflammatory conditions, including MIS-C, was nearly 15x higher than in uninfected peers. The risk of venous thromboembolism was almost 5x higher; that of thrombocytopenia was over 3x higher; that of myocarditis and pericarditis was 3.5x higher; and that of arterial clotting events was more than 2x higher.



While these elevations declined after the first few weeks, they didn't disappear quickly. The risks of venous thromboembolism, low platelet counts, and cardiac inflammation remained significantly above baseline even a year after infection.

Vaccination, however, was associated with only one notable short-term effect: a mild increase in the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis in the first month after the dose. The risk peaked in the first week, when it was around 6x higher than average, but plummeted by the fourth week and showed no increase thereafter. The researchers also emphasised that the few cases of post-vaccination myocarditis were mild and self-limiting, with most affected children recovering quickly with standard care.

To put these figures into perspective, the researchers calculated absolute excess risk, i.e., the additional number of cases expected per 100,000 children within six months of infection or vaccination. They concluded that a child was about 3x more likely to develop cardiac inflammation after COVID-19 infection than after vaccination, and infection was also linked to a wider range of complications.

The researchers noted that immune dysregulation or endothelial injury may be responsible for the persistence of certain complications months after recovery.

While arterial events declined more quickly among children than adults, venous and inflammatory conditions lingered, implying age-related differences in how blood vessels and the immune system recovered after infection.

The scale of the data makes the study one of the most comprehensive analyses of paediatric COVID-19 outcomes to date. Covering 98% of England's population, it allowed researchers to capture even rare outcomes such as MIS-C and paediatric thrombosis. The results also agree with evidence from adult populations showing COVID-19 infections markedly increase clotting and inflammatory risks.

Nevertheless, the authors acknowledged certain limitations. Some infections early in the pandemic may have gone undetected due to limited testing, leading to an underestimation of infection-related risks. Diagnoses drawn from health records may not capture every mild case, and the study didn't evaluate repeated infections or multiple vaccine doses. However, these factors are unlikely to change the overall conclusion: the infection carries more prolonged risks than vaccination.

During the pandemic, reports of myocarditis following mRNA vaccination in older children and adolescents had prompted caution in several countries, temporarily delaying recommendations for younger age groups. This new evidence shows that the infection itself poses a far greater danger to children's hearts, blood vessels, and immune systems than the vaccine ever did.

The researchers also observed a possible weakening of infection-related risks over successive pandemic waves, likely reflecting changes in circulating variants and higher acquired immunity in the population. Yet even during later periods, children with COVID-19 remained at measurably higher risk of vascular and inflammatory complications than their uninfected peers.

Vipin M. Vashishtha is director and paediatrician, Mangla Hospital and Research Center, Bijnor

How much of the internet actually runs on Cloudflare?

DECODED

John Xavier

When major online services suddenly went dark earlier this week due to an outage at Cloudflare, it exposed how deeply intertwined so much of the web is with a single infrastructure provider. The outage itself stemmed from a largely technical but crucial aspect of the company's infrastructure, its bot management feature.

Cloudflare's systems support a wide swath of internet traffic, and a breakdown on its network reverberated globally. But just how big is Cloudflare's footprint on the internet, and what does "running on Cloudflare" really mean for websites, enterprises, and users?

Cloudflare's own public data shows that its global network comprises hundreds of data centres across more than 100 countries, allowing it to process traffic at the "edge" – that means close to users rather than routing all requests back to origin servers.

The company serves on average 81 million HTTP requests per second across its network.

Independent usage-tracking sites report that Cloudflare is used by roughly 20.4% of all websites worldwide as a reverse proxy. A reverse proxy is like a middleman between a client and a server that triages client requests. With a fifth of all websites using Cloudflare, the infrastructure provider is at the top of the reverse proxy category. Among websites that employ some reverse proxy service or content-delivery network (CDN), Cloudflare's penetration is even more pronounced, with over 81% of those sites.

Cloudflare's own public data shows that its network comprises hundreds of data centres across more than 100 countries. AP

Publicly available lists of companies and domains relying on Cloudflare include names like LinkedIn, X, Vimeo, PayPal, Shopify, ChatGPT, and Discord. This demonstrates that its user base spans high-traffic enterprise platforms as well as smaller web properties. In India, names like Titan, Air India and HDFC rely on the infrastructure provider.

The company notes that its service reaches more than 200 cities globally, facilitating coverage near users' locations rather than relying on centralised routing. The dominance of Cloudflare in this space carries both power and risk. The scale of its adoption means that when service disruption occurs, the impact can be broad, affecting not just niche sites but also widely used applications and services.

The outage this week illustrates how dependent the platforms are on Cloudflare's network. The usage statistics suggest that "running on Cloudflare" is not an exclusive characteristic reserved for giant, high-traffic firms. The large subset of web properties using Cloudflare spans many tiers of traffic volume, meaning that the company's engineering decisions and failure modes have ripple effects across the entire spectrum of the web, from niche blogs to global enterprises.

Research in internet infrastructure and dependency further underscores the fragility inherent in centralisation. Academic studies have documented that a relatively small number of third-party CDNs, DNS, and hosting services provide critical infrastructure for a large share of popular domains globally.

These trends create a dynamic where a failure or misconfiguration at a key provider like Cloudflare may propagate widely.

While "running on Cloudflare" does not literally mean every web request anywhere relies on its systems, the coverage is significant enough to make the company a backbone for large swathes of online services.

The sheer number of websites under its reverse proxy, the global scale of its data centres, and the presence of major enterprise platforms among its customers all contribute to a scenario where the company's stability and engineering robustness are crucial to the functioning of the modern internet.

SNAPSHOTS

Dairy animals' milk could have drug resistance genes

Upon checking raw milk from 310 dairy cattle and ewes in Pakistan, researchers found *Staphylococcus epidermidis* bacteria in 13% of milk samples, most from animals with subclinical mastitis. Half of the *S. epidermidis* isolates were resistant to penicillin and erythromycin but much less so to levofloxacin and ciprofloxacin. The bacteria also carried many resistance genes, indicating *S. epidermidis* in dairy animals can be a reservoir of these genes, with consequences for animal health and human exposure.

More efficient technique to mine polymetallic nodules

The recent discovery of rich ecosystems on ocean floors hasn't abated plans worldwide to mine polymetallic nodules from this biosphere. Now, researchers have developed a smelting process that melts the nodules and uses hydrogen over carbon to pull oxygen from metal oxides in a single step, yielding an alloy rich in nickel, copper, and cobalt, plus manganese-rich byproducts usable in batteries. The process drastically cuts CO2 emissions over the current industrial method and is more efficient.

No interloper: moon-making rock came from near sun

Where was Theia, the body that hit a young earth to form the moon, from? Researchers measured differences in iron isotopes in lunar rocks, earth rocks, and meteorites, comparing them with data for zirconium and molybdenum to find that the earth's and the moon's iron isotope compositions sit at one end of a range defined by meteorites thought to come from the inner solar system. They found that Theia probably formed closer to the sun than most material that built the earth.

Question Corner

Tickling the eye

Why does smoke from a stove or hearth irritate the eyes?
- Sahad Chembra

When smoke gets in your eyes, it is not really the small pieces of the ash that make your eyes water up. Instead, the culprits are mostly the chemicals riding along with them. Smoke from wood, cigarettes, and garbage contains many irritating gases, such as formaldehyde and acrolein. When these gases reach the surface of your eye, they dissolve in the thin layer of water that normally coats it. This forms mild acids and other irritating substances right on the eye's surface.

Your eye has very sensitive nerve endings in the clear front layer called the cornea. These nerves detect the irritation and immediately send 'danger' signals to your brainstem. In response, special glands above your eyes start producing extra tears. These tears have two jobs: they have to wash away the irritating chemicals and particles, and they have to dilute anything harmful so it becomes less concentrated. At the same time, blood vessels in and around your eyes widen, making your eyes look red.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

What is the Mekedatu dam project dispute?

What is the history of the proposed project? How has the Tamil Nadu government reacted?

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

On November 18, the Karnataka government decided that it would submit a "revised" Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the Centre on the Mekedatu balancing reservoir across the inter-State river Cauvery. Five days earlier, the Supreme Court termed as "premature" the application of Tamil Nadu challenging the project proposed by Karnataka. With this development, the decks have been cleared for the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and the Central Water Commission (CWC) to examine the upper riparian State's proposal.

How has Tamil Nadu reacted?

While the Opposition in Tamil Nadu has blamed the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam government for the top Court's ruling, the lower riparian State's Water Resources Minister Durai Murugan rebutted reports of the Court having permitted the construction of the dam and asserted that his government would resist Karnataka's every attempt to proceed with the project. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar called the Court's order "justice to the State."

What are the main features of the project?

Karnataka is planning to build a ₹9,000-crore balancing reservoir at Mekedatu, about 100 km from Bengaluru, for impounding 67.16 thousand million cubic ft (TMC) of water. It will have a 400 MW hydro power component too. The project will submerge around 4,996 hectares of land, including about 4,800 hectares of forest and wildlife land. It is expected to help Karnataka utilise an additional 4.75 TMC of water allotted by the Supreme Court, in its judgment in February 2018 on the Cauvery dispute, to meet the growing drinking water needs of Bengaluru. Though the project was mooted as early as 1948, it acquired momentum only in recent years with the capital city of the upper riparian State experiencing severe water shortages in the summer.

> Tamil Nadu is apprehensive that the Mekedatu project, when fructified, may lead to Karnataka storing water excessively and releasing it at its will

Why is the project controversial?

The history of the dispute over the sharing of the Cauvery has led to a serious trust deficit between Tamil Nadu and Karanataka. The lower riparian State's grievance against the upper riparian State acquires more intensity as the track record of the latter in releasing water during the first four months of the water year (June to May) is viewed as being far from satisfactory. This is why Tamil Nadu is apprehensive that the project, when fructified, may lead to Karnataka storing water excessively and releasing it at its will. However, Mr. Shivakumar contends that the project, to be carried out within Karnataka and out of the State's own resources, would help his State supply water to Tamil Nadu as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's final order "even during poor rain years."

How important is the project?

As per information furnished by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in March 2024 during Bengaluru's acute water shortage, the city requires 2,600 million litres a day (MLD) while the available quantum was 2,100 MLD, leaving a shortfall of 500 MLD. The Cauvery river meets the demand for 1,450 MLD with 650 MLD sourced from groundwater. The population of Bengaluru, which is now 13 million, is expected to touch the 20-million mark in six years; then the city will need 4,000 MLD. It is against this backdrop that Mr. Shivakumar justified the early implementation of the Mekedatu project. But, the top Court awarded only 4.75 TMC per year to Bengaluru (equivalent to about 370 MLD).

However, there are other ways to tackle the water problem. T.V. Ramachandra, veteran academician in the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, has been saying that the city gets annual rainfall of 700-850 mm, which, in turn, yields about 15 TMC (around 1,160 MLD), apart from the reuse of treated wastewater likely to provide about 16 TMC annually (1,240 MLD).

How does the Centre view the issue?

In January 2019, Karnataka submitted the DPR to the CWC, which, in turn, had forwarded it to the CWMA. When it had sought approval from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on the terms of reference to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment study, the Ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee, in July 2019, concluded that in view of inter-State issues, an "amicable solution" is needed between the two States. On February 1, 2024, the CWMA, after a "detailed deliberation" decided to refer the project back to the CWC.

Now, the Authority and the CWC can provide a platform to the two States for a discussion, if possible, an understanding, on the project.

Why did India's trade deficit widen in October?

What are some of the factors that may lead to an expanding trade deficit? What are some of the headwinds being faced by India's exports? How have the 50% tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump affected trade? Why did gold imports surge exponentially?

T.C.A Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

India's trade deficit in October surged by 141% in October 2025 to $21.8 billion. While this is a seemingly alarming jump, underlying data show that things aren't all that bad, with India's exports displaying some resilience in the face of significant headwinds, and its imports being disproportionately affected by the import of a few items.

What happened to India's trade balance?

Trade balance is the difference between imports and exports. If the imports exceed exports, then it is called a trade deficit. If exports exceed imports, then it is a trade surplus. In October 2025, India's trade deficit expanded to $21.8 billion from $9.05 billion in the same period last year. Various factors can lead to the widening of a trade deficit. Exports can shrink, imports can swell, or imports can simply grow faster than exports. In October 2025 not only did imports swell, but exports also shrank marginally. In both cases, the main reason was India's merchandise trade rather than its services trade.

How did India's exports perform?

India's total exports in October 2025 shrank 0.7% to $72.9 billion. This was due to a shrinkage in merchandise exports, which fell by 11.8% to $34.4 billion. Services exports, on the other hand, grew 11.9% in October 2025.

It is important to note that the performance of India's merchandise exports in October – although relatively poor – was not bad enough to change the long-term performance of the country materially. That is, over the full April-October 2025 period, total exports grew 4.8%. Within this, merchandise exports grew 0.6% while services exports grew 9.75%.

> Data show that India's exports to the U.S. have taken a hit due to the tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump

In fact, as Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal pointed out during the press briefing, India recorded its highest-ever quarterly exports in both Q1 and Q2, which culminated in the highest-ever export performance for the first half of any financial year. A lot of this performance was due to the strength of India's services exports.

The major headwinds to India's exports currently, namely the 50% tariffs imposed by the U.S., are exclusively on merchandise and not services.

Loosing sheen: Gold imports rose nearly 200% in October 2025. K. K. MUSTAFAH

Have the tariffs not had any effect?

Data show that India's exports to the U.S. have indeed taken a hit due to the tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump. India's merchandise exports to the U.S. shrank 20.4% in September 2025 – the first full month when the tariffs were applicable – as compared to their levels in August. In fact, exports to the U.S. have been shrinking since June 2025.

October 2025 bucked this trend, with India's exports to the U.S again growing 15.4% over their level in September. Government officials and exporter bodies have said this is because Indian exporters have tried to retain their American customers by offering discounts. Further, they have also tried to diversify their customer base within the U.S.

However, the fact remains that 50% tariffs are too strong a headwind for Indian exporters to contend with for too long. It is important to note that, although October's exports to the U.S. were higher than in September, they were 8.6% lower than in October last year.

Which sectors have been impacted the most?

Several labour-intensive sectors saw their exports contract significantly in October 2025 – leather and leather products by 15.7%, gems and jewellery by 29.5%, organic and inorganic chemicals by 21%, engineering goods by 16.7%, cotton yarn by 13.3%, man-made yarn by 11.8%, and jute by 27.8%, to name a few.

The U.S. is a big importer of almost all of these items, and so the tariffs have impacted these sectors significantly. Exporters are looking to diversify their markets and expand to other countries, but supply chains take time to establish and so this pain will be felt for some more months.

Why did imports surge in October?

India's total imports jumped nearly 15% to $94.7 billion in October 2025. Within this, services imports grew by a relatively small 8.1%. Merchandise imports, on the other hand, grew by 16.7% in October 2025. So, why did merchandise imports jump in October? The main drivers of this surge were gold and, to an extent, silver. Gold imports jumped nearly 200% in October 2025 to $14.7 billion from $4.9 billion in October 2024.

In fact, gold imports in October reversed the trend that had been seen in the April-September period of this financial year. The value of gold imports in the April-September 2025 period was 8.7% lower than in the same period of the previous year, despite gold prices having increased by more than 22% in this period compared to April-September 2024. However, the jump in October was so significant that it meant that gold imports in April-October 2025 were 21.4% higher than in April-October 2024.

Gold imports jumped because, this year, the festival period fell entirely in October. India's cultural affinity for gold is such that, come Dhanteras and Deepawali, Indians flock to the markets to buy gold in jewellery form as well as bars and coins, with little regard for the price.

Silver imports, too, grew nearly 530% in October 2025 to $2.7 billion, albeit over a much smaller base than gold.

Was October a blip?

There are several ways to approach this question. On the exports side, it looks like merchandise exports are going to continue to feel some pressure as long as the 50% tariffs are in place. However, trade tensions between India and the U.S. have recently begun receding, with both sides having concluded the sixth round of formal negotiations on a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) in October.

Officials on both sides have again begun talking about concluding at least the first tranche of the BTA soon. Such mentions had stopped in the immediate aftermath of the 50% tariffs, so a resumption of such sentiments should be seen as a good sign. If the tariff issue is handled in this initial deal, then India's merchandise exports could again start growing strongly.

On the import side, it is unlikely that the months ahead will see gold and silver imports maintain the high level that October saw. However, there are indications that Indian investors are using gold as a hedge against currency risk, so there is a chance that gold imports might remain elevated, even if not by quite as much.

What does the forecast look like?

The Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) recently forecast that India's merchandise exports will touch $114.2 billion in the October-December 2025 quarter, which would be a year-on-year growth of 5%.

Are e-KYC norms excluding MGNREGA workers?

Why is the Union government pushing e-KYC verification of workers who are employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act? Was there no method of verification available before the e-KYC system? What is the National Mobile Monitoring System?

Sobhana K. Nair

The story so far:

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) covers 26 crore registered workers across 2.69 lakh gram panchayats. Over the last six months, about 15 lakh workers were deleted. But in just one month, between October 10 and November 14 this year, they shot up to 27 lakh – nearly double the six-month total. This far exceeds the 10.5 lakh additions during the same period. The spike in deletions coincides with the Union government's push to conduct e-KYC (know your customer) verification of workers, to weed out ineligible workers.

What are the government's reasons?

The Union Ministry of Rural Development in a statement on Friday said that verification of MGNREGA workers is a continuous process. The e-KYC is another step towards this. "It will strengthen transparency, efficiency, and ease of service delivery under MGNREGA," the statement said. As per the statement, till date over 56% of active workers have completed their e-KYC verification across States.

> The government has refuted the claim that e-KYC has led to deletions

Digital twist: MGNREGA workers take geotagged photos to mark attendance before work during rains at Varapuzha near Kochi on June 12. THULASI KAKKAT

How were workers verified before?

From time-to-time, the government has introduced several means of verification to ensure that no ineligible person draws any benefits from MNREGA. To this end the government, after running a pilot for nearly a year, from May 2022, made it mandatory that the attendance of workers is captured digitally using a mobile based application –the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS). The government directed that the mate or supervisor on each MNREGA worksite should click and upload geotagged pictures of the workers twice a day. In January 2023, the government made the Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS) mandatory. The ABPS uses the worker's unique 12-digit Aadhaar number as their financial address. For the ABPS to work, a worker's Aadhaar details must be seeded to her job card and her bank account. The worker's Aadhaar must also be mapped with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) database. Moreover, the bank's Institutional Identification Number (IIN) must itself be mapped with the NPCI database.

How does e-KYC work?

As stated above, the attendance of MNREGA workers has been marked on the NMMS since May 2022 on all worksites. This application also has an e-KYC feature, whereby the mate or supervisor clicks a picture of the worker which is verified against the worker's picture in the Aadhaar database.

Is there any correlation between the e-KYC drive and deletion of MNREGA workers?

This is not the first time that there is a surge in the deletion of MNREGA workers. Both the introduction of the NMMS and ABPS were aimed at bringing greater transparency but also contributed to exclusion. In the case of NMMS, there have been recurrent complaints of patchy network connectivity, especially in remote areas and little to no technological know-how among the workers. There have been complaints that work could not be recorded because of these issues which led to loss of wages.

Aadhaar seeding of job cards is the foundational step towards ABPS. But this has thrown several challenges. Often the demographic details of Aadhaar have been found to be different from that of the job card. In many cases it was found that a change in a letter here or there, between the way the name is spelled out in the two documents, led to workers' exclusion. Deletions rose by 247% between 2021-22 and 2022-23 during the roll out of the ABPS.

NMMS has also failed in achieving its intended goal of "transparency." It was discovered that irrelevant or unrelated photographs were being uploaded. In many cases, "photo-to-photo capturing instead of live work images" was being done. There was also "mismatch in actual versus recorded count." In July this year, the Ministry issued a circular directing States to ensure that photographs and attendance of workers are verified at the gram panchayat, block, district and State level. The circular introduced a system wherein the percentage of physical verification of the uploaded photographs of workers would reduce at different levels. At the gram panchayat level, there would be 100% verification of the present workers. At block level, 20% of photos at random would need to be verified, at district level this number comes down to 10% and at the State level 5%. One of the reasons to introduce e-KYC for workers was the failure of the NMMS.

The government has refuted the claim that e-KYC has led to deletions. The Ministry said that a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was issued in January this year on deletion of job cards/workers. "This SOP provides clear, uniform, and transparent guidelines for States to follow, ensuring fairness, accountability, and protection of workers' interests in the management of job card records. Adequate safeguards have been made part of the SOP to prevent arbitrary/wrongful deletion," the ministry said. These safeguards include publication of the names of workers who are intended to be deleted from the system, and giving them adequate time to file appeals. However, the government failed to explain why States with high e-KYC completion rates are leading in deletions. Andhra Pradesh, where 78.4% of workers have completed e-KYC, recorded 15.92 lakh deletions. Tamil Nadu (67.6%) saw 30,529 deletions, and Chhattisgarh (66.6%) reported 1.04 lakh.

The guns fall silent

CPI(Maoist)

The killing of Madvi Hidma, the elusive commander of the Central Military Commission of the Maoists, signals not just a tactical defeat of the insurgents but the effective collapse of the armed struggle that once threatened to engulf vast swathes of India's forested heartland

Srinivasan Ramani
Sumit Bhattacharjee

PTI

November 18, 2025, marks what may well be the final chapter in the decades-long Maoist insurgency in India. Deep inside Papikonda National Park in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitharama Raju district, security forces killed Madvi Hidma, the elusive commander of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and the Maoists' last hope for military revival. His death, coming six months after the killing of General Secretary Nambala Kesava Rao alias Basavaraju in May, signals not just a tactical defeat but the effective collapse of the armed struggle that once threatened to engulf vast swathes of India's forested heartland.

Hidma's killing is significant not just for who he was – a tribal leader in a Telugu-speaking dominant party leadership and who rose meteorically to the top echelons of the CPI(Maoist) – but for where it happened. He did not fall in his familiar terrain of Bastar's dense jungles, which he knew "like the back of his hand", but in unfamiliar Andhra territory, a testament to how far the movement had been pushed from its strongholds. Gunned down alongside his wife Madakam Raje and four trusted bodyguards, his death was immediately followed by the elimination of seven other cadres, including Metturi Joga Rao alias Tech Shankar, and the arrest of 50 Maoists across Andhra Pradesh within 24 hours.

The last warrior

Born in 1981 in Purvati village in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, the Gondi-speaking Hidma joined the movement at 16 and swiftly became what surrendered Maoists describe as a "gifted fighter". Despite lacking formal education, he was tech-savvy, always carrying a laptop or tablet, and possessed legendary communication skills that helped him extract the best from his cadres. Basavaraju, himself an expert in guerrilla warfare reportedly trained by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the 1980s, spotted Hidma's talent early and elevated him to command the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee. He became the only tribal leader from Bastar to reach the Maoist Central Committee.

After Basavaraju's death in an encounter, Hidma assumed control of the CMC and its premier fighting unit, Battalion 1 of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA). His record was devastating: at least 26 major attacks, including the 2010 Tadmetla assault that killed 76 CRPF personnel, the 2013 Jhiram Ghati ambush that killed Congress leaders Mahendra Karma and Nand Kumar Patel, the 2017 Burkapal attack that claimed the lives of 25 CRPF personnel, and the Tekulguda ambush that left 21 security personnel dead.

Yet, for all his prowess, Hidma commanded a shrinking force. The CPI(Maoist), which boasted 45 Central Committee members in 2010, now has barely 10-12 left. Since 2024, approximately 2,120 Maoists have surrendered and over 560 killed, including top leaders. The statistics tell a story of inexorable decline.

Final defeat

To understand this denouement, one must return to the movement's origins in Chhattisgarh's Dandakaranya forests. The Maoist presence there began not as an offensive but as a strategic retreat. Following the collapse of the Naxalbari movement in the 1970s, leaders concluded they had erred by not preparing a "rear area" for regrouping. In 1980, seven squads totalling 49 cadres were dispatched to the roughly 100,000 sq. km "Dandakaranya region", spanning four States. Their mission was to establish it as a safe rear sector for the Telangana guerrilla zone.

The cadres won tribal trust by addressing grievances – forcing contractors to raise tendu leaf prices, tackling forest department abuses, and confronting sexual harassment by officials. A high-ranking tribal Maoist leader once explained the core issue: tribals felt they weren't "treated as humans", lacking respect for their language, religion, and way of life.

Ironically, state-sponsored counter-insurgency campaigns proved the movement's best recruiters. The 1980s Jan Jagran Abhiyan, which arrested and killed suspected Naxal sympathisers, pushed tribal leaders to advise youth to join the Maoists for safety. The 2005 Salwa Judum campaign, declared illegal by the Supreme Court, forced villagers to choose sides – and many chose the Maoists, causing the party to grow manifold.

Yet, the movement always carried the seeds of its own destruction. As academician Nirmalagshu Mukherji noted in 2010, rather than organising tribals into cooperatives or building health and education institutions, the Maoists maintained the exploitative contractor system to tax and garner revenues. This emphasis on armed struggle flowed from a flawed understanding of the Indian state and a determination to replicate China's 1920s revolutionary path. Former General Secretary Ganapathi warned against "getting bogged down in legalism and economism" and forgetting that "masses have to be prepared for seizure of power'. This iron grip in Abujhmarh created discontent among tribals.

The state's comprehensive counter-strategy combined security operations with developmental outreach. The Union Home Ministry established a dedicated Left Wing Extremism Division in 2006, providing financial support for fortifying police stations and strengthening state forces. The CPI(Maoist) was banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2009. Crucially, welfare measures – Public Distribution System shops, Anganwadi centres – were routed through new forward security camps near Maoist areas. The period of 2024-25 proved decisive. Over 50 new forward camps in South Bastar and Narayanpur restricted the movement of the PLGA, while nearly 2,000 local 'Bastar Fighters' with superior terrain and language knowledge addressed the Maoist threat significantly. 'Operation Kagar', launched in April 2025, systematically targeted the leadership – claiming Basavaraju in May and Hidma in November.

In August 2024, the Maoist Politburo acknowledged nationwide setbacks and failure to achieve 2020 targets, reframing its strategy toward tactical retreat and protecting the party. It restructured battalions into smaller units to avoid encirclement.

The road ahead

Just before Hidma's death, surrendered Central Committee Member Mallojula Venugopal alias Sonu appealed to remaining Maoists to lay down arms, stating bluntly that armed struggle was "no longer relevant" and their force "no match for present well-trained and well-equipped security forces".

The party's Central Committee responded by expelling Venugopal as a "traitor" and pledging in an October 2025 statement that it would "never surrender to the enemy". Yet, such defiance cannot obscure the movement's collapse – the statement itself admitted the enemy had "gained an advantage" and acknowledged the need to rebuild "while protecting the Party". The insurgent party is now led by Thippiri Tirupathi alias Devuji, though its Central Committee is yet to meet, fearing security forces' reprisals, to endorse this decision.

As the guns increasingly fall silent, the challenge shifts. A focus solely on security could create new grievances. Only a welfare-minded approach allowing tribal integration with dignity can prevent resurgence. For the Maoists, the movement faces its severest crisis. The story of their vicissitudes should suggest a serious rethink on their understanding of the Indian state and the futility of an armed struggle that relegated mass mobilisation and socio-economic organisation. The dream of revolution, it appears, has finally died in the forests of south-central India.

THE GIST

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- The state's comprehensive counter-strategy combined security operations with developmental outreach. The Union Home Ministry established a dedicated Left Wing Extremism Division in 2006, providing financial support for fortifying police stations and strengthening state forces
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Trump's Ukraine gambit

28-point peace plan

The proposal demands Ukraine cede territory and give up its NATO bid in return for security guarantees, while Russia will be reintegrated into the global economy

Stanly Johny

GRAPHIC NEWS

"Ukraine may find itself facing a very difficult choice," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday. "Either loss of dignity, or the risk of losing a key partner," he added, referring to the 28-point peace plan presented to Kyiv by the Trump administration. U.S. President Donald Trump says he expects a response from Ukraine by Thanksgiving (Nov. 26).

The Trump plan addresses both Russia's security concerns and Ukraine's demand for security guarantees, but it also acknowledges the facts on the ground which favour Moscow. Russia now controls more than 20% of Ukraine's pre-2014 territory. Besides Crimea, which Russia annexed through a referendum in February 2014, Moscow has annexed four more Ukrainian oblasts – Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

According to Mr. Trump's draft plan, which was leaked to the media, Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk will be recognised "as de facto Russian". Ukraine will have to withdraw troops from the part of Donetsk that it currently controls. The line of contact in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia will be frozen–which means Russia will keep the territories of these two oblasts that it has captured. Russia will relinquish the territories it has seized other than the five oblasts (in Kharkiv and Ddnipropetrovsk). Ukraine will also have to limit the size of its armed forces to 600,000 personnel (according to some estimates, Ukraine now has some 900,000 active duty personnel).

The most contentious point besides territory was the role of NATO. As of now, Ukraine doesn't have a pragmatic path towards NATO membership. But Ukraine has not officially given up its desire to join the trans-Atlantic security alliance. According to the Trump plan, however, Ukraine should enshrine in its Constitution that it will not join NATO, and the bloc should include in its statutes a provision that Ukraine will not be admitted in the future. "It is expected that Russia will not invade neighbouring countries and NATO will not expand further," reads another point in the plan. Russia and NATO will also initiate dialogue, under the mediation of the U.S., to resolve "all security issues".

Security guarantees

If peace prevails, the U.S. promises to reintegrate Russia into the global economy. Sanctions on Russia could be lifted and the country could rejoin the G8 grouping, and enter a long-term economic cooperation agreement with the U.S. Moscow will have to enshrine in law its policy of non-aggression towards Europe and Ukraine. "If Russia invades Ukraine, in addition to a decisive coordinated military response, all global sanctions will be reinstated, recognition of the new territory and all other benefits of this deal will be revoked," reads the document.

While the 28-point proposal says Ukraine will receive "reliable security guarantees", it doesn't offer details about the promise. But the Trump administration has circulated another draft agreement dealing only with the security part. The three-point plan, which needs the approval of Ukraine, Russia, the U.S., the EU and NATO, promises NATO-style security assurances to Ukraine for up to 10 years, which can be renewed by mutual agreement. A significant and sustained armed attack by Russia on Ukraine "shall be regarded as an attack threatening the peace and security of the transatlantic community," reads the document. Countermeasures "may include armed force, intelligence and logistical assistance, economic and diplomatic actions, and other steps".

The Kremlin has responded positively to the proposal. Mr. Trump says Ukraine "must accept" it as it offers a chance for peace. An agreement could quickly bring the war to an end and offer the much needed security guarantees for Ukraine against potential future conflicts. But for that, Kyiv will have to cede territories, recognise the Russian control of its eastern region and relinquish its bid for NATO. Is Mr. Zelenskyy ready for it yet?

Faith against mountain

Marjorie Taylor Greene

The Congresswoman from Georgia, who clashed with Trump, announced she would be quitting the House, formalising the split in the MAGA movement

Varghese K. George

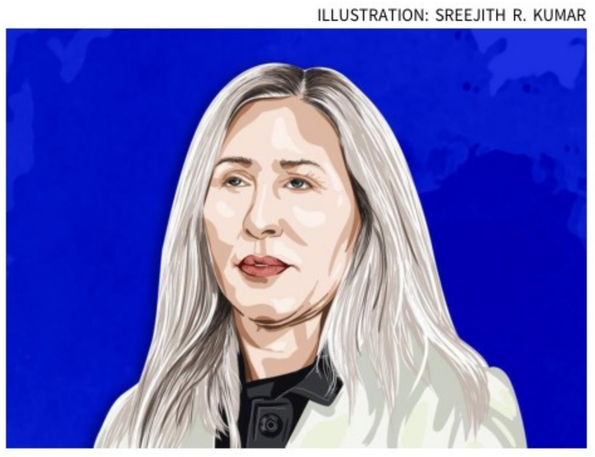

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Donald J. Trump has thrived on attacks from his opponents, who have called him a racist, an anti-Semite, a misogynist, anti-Muslim, and someone who ruined America's global reputation by abandoning its military alliances and questioning wars. These charges fired up crowds that rallied behind him under the banner of Make America Great Again (MAGA). But now he is being attacked for betraying the very causes he championed for MAGA.

Marjorie Taylor Greene, Representative from Georgia, has emerged as a central figure in U.S. politics more for whom she opposes – Mr. Trump – than for what she stands for. She has always stood by Mr. Trump from the early days of MAGA, and for the causes that defined that populist revolt. A decade on, she now opposes Mr. Trump and accuses him of betraying the trust of his voters. It was Mr. Trump's efforts to prevent transparency in the investigation of dead sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein that led him into head-on conflict with the loyalist.

Ms Greene stood her ground and insisted on the release of the Epstein files that link the trafficker to leading figures in American public life. Mr. Trump was forced to eat humble pie and agree to the demand for transparency. Along the way, he called Ms. Greene a "traitor", a "lightweight", and "whacky". The split was completed on November 21, when she announced she would be quitting the House and would not be contesting the 2026 election.

The MAGA split is wide open. She said she expected a primary challenger supported by the President, and did not want to fight it out. "I refuse to be a 'battered wife' hoping it all goes away and gets better," she said. Mr. Trump said it was "good news for the country." Ms. Greene has framed her confrontation with Mr. Trump as a populist revolt. "If I am cast aside by MAGA Inc and replaced by Neocons, Big Pharma, Big Tech, the Military Industrial War Complex, foreign leaders, and the elite donor class that can't even relate to real Americans, then many common Americans have been cast aside and replaced as well," she said.

'Genocide in Gaza'

Pro-Israel segments in the Republican and Democratic parties call her an anti-Semite for her opposition to American support for Israel, but Ms. Greene's positions have found support from members of both parties. She has questioned Mr. Trump's claim that inflation is under control and has been vocal in her criticism of colleagues in both parties for rocketing health insurance costs. She was the first Republican to term the Israeli war on Gaza a "genocide". She has urged the U.S. to stop funding Israel's military campaign, arguing that "we no longer have to fund and fight nuclear-armed secular Israel's wars, especially when it leads to starving children and killing innocent people".

She has been a supporter of gun rights, and even suggested a 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas was a conspiracy to bring in gun control. In 2018, she reportedly suggested that the September 11, 2001 terror strikes were orchestrated by the deep state.

Ms. Greene says all her politics and public service are guided by her Christian faith, but her advocacy for the American working class is what makes her acceptable to many people. Josh McKoon of the Georgia GOP described her as "a tireless fighter for America First principles"; Thomas Massie (R-KY) said she "embodies what a true representative should be"; House Minority Leader, Democrat Hakeem Jeffries, complimented her for "enlightened weeks" in recent times. Democrat Ro Khanna, speaking of his agreement with her, said: "she is genuinely moved by the Epstein survivors, believes in AI regulation, and is anti-war." He also previewed what may be brewing. "I'll tell you this. She has more populist instincts than (Vice President) J.D. Vance."

She has left that open. "When the common American people finally realise that The People possess the real power over Washington, then I'll be here by their side to rebuild it."

PESHAWAR

17 TTP militants killed by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

AFP

At least 17 TTP militants were killed and several injured in coordinated operations across Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the police said on Saturday. Security forces recovered weapons and explosives from the slain militants. A 10-kg bomb was also defused at Aabshar Chowk, preventing a major tragedy, officials added. PTI

DHAKA

Aftershock rocks Bangladesh as toll rises to 10; hundreds wounded

AP

A 3.3-magnitude tremor struck Bangladesh's Narsingdi district on Saturday, a day after a 5.5-magnitude quake near Dhaka killed 10 and injured hundreds. Authorities revised the epicentre location, activated emergency operations, and warned of possible aftershocks as residents reported cracked houses. AFP

MOSCOW

Potential Putin-Trump summit is on agenda, says Russia's Ryabkov

AP

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said a Putin-Trump meeting is still possible, with dialogue channels between Russia and the U.S. active. Their last meeting in Alaska failed to resolve the Ukraine conflict, and plans for Budapest were postponed. He added that the progress in establishing dialogue was "impressive". REUTERS

BRASILIA

Brazil's ex-President Bolsonaro detained by police ahead of vigil

AFP

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was taken into federal police custody on Saturday before a planned supporters' vigil near his home, ending months of house arrest. The court ordered the detention citing the risk of supporters hampering police monitoring of Mr. Bolsonaro's house arrest. REUTERS

Trump and Mamdani find common ground after White House meeting

The two stress on mutual goals for New York City rather than their political differences; both leaders discuss concrete issues such as housing affordability, utility costs, rising grocery prices, issues that were central to both their campaigns

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday met the man who had proudly proclaimed himself "Donald Trump's worst nightmare," but he seemed to find the opposite.

The Republican President and New York City's Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani were warm and friendly, speaking repeatedly of their shared goals to help Mr. Trump's hometown rather than their combustible differences.

Mr. Trump, who had in the past called Mr. Mamdani a "100% Communist Lunatic" and a "total nut job," spoke openly of how impressed he was with the man who had called his administration "authoritarian".

Foes to friends: Donald Trump with Zohran Mamdani as they meet in the Oval Office of White House in Washington on Friday. REUTERS

"I think he is going to surprise some conservative people, actually," Mr. Trump said of the democratic socialist as Mr. Mamdani stood next to him in the Oval Office.

The meeting offered political opportunities for both men. For Mr. Mamdani, a sit-down offered the state lawmaker – who until recently was relatively unknown – the chance to go head-to-head with the most powerful person in the world.

For Mr. Trump, it was a high-profile chance to talk about affordability at a time when he is under increasing political pressure to show he is addressing voter concerns about the cost of living.

Until now, the men have been political foils who galvanised their supporters by taking on each other, and it is unclear how those backers will react to their genial get-together and complimentary words.

Mr. Mamdani and Mr. Trump said they discussed housing affordability and the cost of groceries and utilities, as Mr. Mamdani successfully used frustration over inflation to get elected, just as the President did in the 2024 election.

"Some of his ideas are really the same ideas that I have," the President said.

Mr. Mamdani, who takes office in January, said he sought the meeting with Mr. Trump to talk about ways to make New York City more affordable.

Gunmen abduct over 300 Nigerian students, teachers

Agence France-Presse
LAGOS

Gunmen have kidnapped more than 300 students and teachers in one of the largest mass kidnappings in Nigeria, a Christian group said on Saturday, as security fears mounted in Africa's most populous nation.

The early Friday raid on St Mary's co-education school in Niger state in central Nigeria came after gunmen on Monday stormed a secondary school in neighbouring Kebbi state, abducting 25 girls.

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) had earlier reported 227 people seized, but the new number came "after a verification exercise" following the early Friday mass kidnapping, and added that "The total number of victims abducted ... is now 303 students and 12 teachers".

Open lockers and scattered personal belongings inside a dormitory after a militant raid at St. Mary's Catholic School in Niger State. AFP

The number of boys and girls kidnapped from St Mary's is almost half of the school's student population of 629.

The Nigerian government has not commented on the number of students and teachers abducted.

Niger state governor Mohammed Umar Bago told presspersons on Saturday that the intelligence department and police were "doing the head count" and the figure would be released by the end of the day.

President Bola Tinubu has cancelled international engagements, including attending the G-20 Summit in Johannesburg, to handle the crisis.

Key MAGA figure Greene resigns from U.S. Congress

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. lawmaker Marjorie Taylor Greene, an influential right-wing figure and MAGA acolyte who recently broke with President Donald Trump, announced she is quitting her seat in Congress, prompting him to double down on Saturday on accusations she is a "traitor".

"I will be resigning from office with my last day being January 5, 2026," the 51-year-old Republican congresswoman said.

Bangladesh will not 'pick sides'; it will prioritise 'national interest', says Foreign Affairs Adviser

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

Against the backdrop of tensions caused by the presence of Bangladesh's deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Indian soil, the interim government's Foreign Affairs Adviser, Touhid Hossein, said here on Saturday that Bangladesh would "insist" on its right to pursue its national interest. Though global powers are realigning, Bangladesh will not "pick sides" and will prioritise its own "national interest and regional stability", he said.

"Bangladesh insists on its sovereignty and its right to pursue its national interest. In practice, this means that our partnership must deliver tangible benefits, not symbolic only. We will engage with major and middle powers but our decisions will be guided by national interest, sovereign equality, and mutual respect," Mr. Hossein said, at the Bay of Bengal Conversation being conducted under the aegis of the Centre for Governance Studies, a leading Dhaka-based think tank.

"In moments of realignment, states are tempted to pick sides, but we should first pick the right course. Bangladesh chooses to be a responsible player. We will engage robustly, speak firmly when needed, and partner productively," Mr. Hossein said.

Touhid Hossein

He did not talk about the death sentence issued to Ms. Hasina, but referred to her government as an "oppressive regime that restricted civil space".

The Foreign Affairs Adviser to the interim government described the Bay of Bengal region as a "strategic fulcrum", adding that "Bangladesh intents to be a confident actor and not a passive corridor only."

Referring to the regional situation, Mr. Hossein called for responsive institutions that will sustain connectivity and commerce but emphasised that economic partnerships should not be "predatory" by nature.

Speaking at the same event, Bangladesh Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed struck a cautionary note about the ongoing constitutional reform programme of the interim government. "The truth, which we must acknowledge without euphemism, is that the present Constitution despite its flaws and its historical scars, remains the Judiciary's only touchstone of legitimacy."

(The reporter is visiting Bangladesh to participate in the Bay of Bengal Conversation)

Israel kills 1 in Lebanon

JERUSALEM: The Israeli army said on Saturday it killed a Hezbollah member in a strike the day before on southern Lebanon, where Israel has carried out repeated attacks despite an ongoing ceasefire with the Iran-backed group.

"In a targeted strike the [Israeli army] eliminated a Hezbollah terrorist in the Froun area in southern Lebanon" on Friday, the military said in a statement.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)
TGSPDCL intends to float tender for procurement of (a) 11KV Metering CTs 75/5A,0.2S Class accuracy (b) 11KV Metering CTs 100/5A,0.2S Class accuracy (c) 11KV 1-Phase PTs,0.2 class accuracy (d) 16 MVA Power Transformers on e-procurement platform.
For further details of each item above, please visit www.tgsouthernpower.org, www.tender.telangana.gov.in Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026
DIPR R.O.No.865-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:22.11.2025 Sd/-CHIEF ENGINEER (P&MM)

कार्यालय नगर पालिका अन्ता जिला बारां (राज0)
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क्रमांक : न.पा.अ./निर्माण/2025–26/259–263 दिनांकः– 18/11/2025
ई-निविदा सूचना– 14/2025–26
नगर पालिका अन्ता द्वारा निर्माण संबंधित कार्य हेतु विभिन्न विभागों में नियमानुसार उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से Const. of RCC Drain Work in Municipal Area Anta कार्य के लिये निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ऑनलाईन निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। संवेदक निविदा प्रपत्र व विवरण लोक उपापन की वेबसाईट http://Sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से प्राप्त कर सकेगें। कार्य की लागत 1687.42 लाख रूपये है
NIB No – DLB2526A8168
UBN No – DLB2526WLOB24495
अधिशाषी अधिकारी
नगर पालिका अन्ता
राज.संवाद/सी/25/14251

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त–झालावाड़
कमरा नं0 – 158, भूतल (सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग परिसर), मिनी सचिवालय, झालावाड़
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क्रमांक :– 939 दिनांक :– 16.11.2025
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या 10/2025–26
NIB No. PWD2526A3668
इस कार्यालय पत्र क्रमांक 862 दिनांक 16.11.2025 द्वारा जारी/प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या 10/2025–26 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :–

क्र0 सं0	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1.	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 27.10.2025 से 16.11.2025 सांय 6.00 बजे तक।	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 27.10.2025 से 25.11.2025 सांय 6.00 बजे तक।
2.	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 27.10.2025 से 16.11.2025 सांय 6.00 बजे तक।	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 27.10.2025 से 25.11.2025 सांय 6.00 बजे तक।
3.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि 17.11.2025 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे।	निविदा खोलने की तिथि 26.11.2025 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे।
4.	धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों), दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01, RISL शुल्क बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई–ग्रास पर ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 16.11.2025 सांय 6:00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशासी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड के नाम जमा कराई जानी है, एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क का चालान तथा कार्य हेतु (सर्टिफिकेट ऑफ करेक्टनेस ऑफ बिड डॉक्यूमेंट) शपथ–पत्र राशि रू0 100/– एवं अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा, एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।	धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों), दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01, RISL शुल्क बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई–ग्रास पर ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 25.11.2025 सांय 6:00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशासी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड के नाम जमा कराई जानी है, एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क का चालान तथा कार्य हेतु (सर्टिफिकेट ऑफ करेक्टनेस ऑफ बिड डॉक्यूमेंट) शपथ–पत्र राशि रू0 100/– एवं अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा, एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

S.No.	UBN No.	S.No.	UBN No.	S.No.	UBN No.
1	PWD2526WSOB14889	2	PWD2526WSOB14890	3	PWD2526WSOB14898
4	PWD2526WSOB14899	5	PWD2526WSOB14900	6	PWD2526WSOB14909
7	PWD2526WSOB14910	8	PWD2526WSOB14911	9	PWD2526WSOB14912
10	PWD2526WSOB14913	11	PWD2526WSOB14914	12	PWD2526WSOB14915
13	PWD2526WSOB14916	14	PWD2526WSOB14917	15	PWD2526WSOB14918
16	PWD2526WSOB14919	17	PWD2526WSOB14920	18	PWD2526WSOB14921
19	PWD2526WSOB14922	20	PWD2526WSOB14924	21	PWD2526WSOB14925
22	PWD2526WSOB14926				

(मुकेश चन्द मीना)
अधीक्षण अभियंता
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग
वृत्त–झालावाड़
DIPR/C/17024/2025

Ear to the ground, young women chase cricket dreams

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Barely a month after India lifted the Women's ODI World Cup, another women's team has been training intensely for a series that culminates in Colombo on Sunday – the first 'Women's T20 World Cup for the Blind'.

The series, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, began earlier this month with six teams – India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Australia, and the U.S.– playing qualifying matches in New Delhi and Bengaluru. India will play Nepal in the final match at the P. Saravanamuttu Stadium, or 'Colombo Oval', the only Asian cricket ground to host Sir Don Bradman (in 1948).

"There is no tension," says Karnataka-born Deepika T.C., captain of the Indian team. "That is because we are not just a team of batters, bowlers, and fielders, everyone is an all-rounder."

Unlike cricket for sighted persons, blind cricket is played with a white-coloured plastic with ball bearings, for it to be heard by the players. Once the bowler knows the batter on strike is ready, she must shout out "play", so the batter can anticipate an approaching ball – delivered underarm – and time her batting action accordingly. Each team has at least four persons with complete visual impairment and the rest with different lesser degrees of visual impairment, where players can see up to two, or six metres in distance.

"A lot goes into training blind cricketers so they can assess space, both for their safety and to plan their movement around the ground. And then they must adapt to the demands of the game, in terms of physical fitness and mental health," says Shika Shetty, who manages the Indian team. Phula Saren is thrilled to play for India. "I am not only representing my country, but also my village in Balasore district in Orissa. It makes me very proud," says the 18-year-old, ardent Jemimah Rodrigues fan.

India's Simu Das, left, plays a shot during the Women's Blind Twenty20 World Cup 2025 match between India and Pakistan. AFP

From rural India

The players in India's blind women's cricket team are aged between 16 and 28 years, and come from poor homes in rural India, according to Ms. Shetty. The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) selects and trains players from across the country's villages. "Getting into the game is not only a big shift for girls from modest homes, but also makes a huge difference to their families who see them shine in this field," said Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, CABI chairperson and the brain behind tournament.

Cricket being a sequential game with a lot of strategy allows players with visual impairment to navigate the rules and physical space, he notes, underscoring the need for more infrastructure and financial support to create more opportunities. "From the idea stage to actual execution, we managed to pull it off in less than two months, only because of the enormous support we received from Sri Lankan authorities, Indian officials, and our sponsors and supporters," Mr. Kivadasannavar says.

Anikha Devi from Jammu and Kashmir was introduced to the game by her uncle, also a person with visual impairment. "Just wearing this blue jersey and practising with my teammates, it's a great feeling," says the 20-year-old, who is studying programming.

For Sri Lanka, the tournament brought an opportunity to quickly put together its own blind women's cricket team. "We brought in students from the university and others who were very interested in this game. We couldn't have missed such a great opportunity," says Sudesh Tharanga, president of the Sri Lanka Cricket Association for the Visually Handicapped.

Many among the players are pursuing their university education in parallel to their cricket coaching. Nimra Rafique, who plays for the Pakistan team, is studying for a bachelor's degree in education. Asked what she would pick as a full-time career, "Both. Why, it is possible!" she asserts with a beaming smile. One thing that players from all sides agree on is how beautiful Colombo is, "although quite warm". "We went to the seaside, and the breeze was just lovely," Ms. Rafique says.

STAYING TRUE

Guwahati pitch is better than the one in Kolkata, says ten Doeschate

RITU RAJ KONWAR

India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate felt that the Guwahati pitch was better than the one in Kolkata. "I thought it played nicely. The seam bowlers didn't look like they could extract much from length or back-of-length. Hopefully, it stays in this shape for an even amount of period for both teams to cash in".

SLIDING AWAY

'White-ball cricket has affected the ability to grind it out in the middle'

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Ryan ten Doeschate felt white-ball cricket has affected the batters' ability to grind it out in the middle. "The skill of grinding it out, like in the 90s and 2000s, is sliding away. It's maybe something we have to accept or otherwise pick guys who are only suited to play that way, which I'm not sure is the answer at the moment".

ADAPTING AND LEARNING

I worked on my defence: Stubbs after being made to bat at No. 3

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Tristan Stubbs felt that despite being shuffled around the order, he is ready to take the challenge of batting at No. 3. "It's not the easiest moving around, but whatever the coach asks, I'm happy. I have worked a lot on my defence; I had to, coming in as a white-ball player. I find at three you can afford to be a bit more defensive".

GOING STRONG

Farhan and Nawaz star as Pakistan routs Sri Lanka, remains unbeaten

FILE PHOTO

Sahibzada Farhan bludgeoned an unbeaten 80 off 45 balls as Pakistan routed Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the third match of the T20I tri-series in Rawalpindi on Saturday. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 128/7 in 20 overs (Janith Liyanage 41 n.o., Mohammad Nawaz 3/16) lost to Pakistan 131/3 in 15.3 overs (Farhan 80 n.o.); **PoM:** Nawaz.

Kuldeep leads the fightback as India stymies Proteas' progress

The left-arm wrist spinner picks up three wickets while Siraj strikes late in the day to keep the visiting team to 247 for six; the openers provide a solid start before falling in quick succession; Stubbs and Bavuma bat well for South Africa

SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

The rationale from the powers that be for expanding the number of Test centres in India is to give fans across the country a chance to experience the joy of the purest form of the game.

On Saturday, as Guwahati's ACA Stadium became the country's 30th Test venue with India taking on South Africa in the second and final match of the series, fans were treated to an engrossing day of Test cricket that had all the ebbs and flows one expects in this format.

Electing to bat, the visitors finished on 247 for six after having had a firm grip on proceedings for two-thirds of the day before Rishabh Pant's men, led by Kuldeep Yadav (three for 48), fought back in the final phase, taking four wickets.

As expected with an early start (9 a.m.), there was a bit of assistance for the pacers, and Jasprit Bumrah was right on the money, pinning Aiden Markram down at one end.

The pace spearhead was probing around off-stump, and Markram was like a cat on a hot tin roof, tes

ting both edges of the bat. The South African opener took 17 balls to open his account, punching Bumrah through the covers for a boundary and got a reprieve the very next ball when K.L. Rahul dropped a simple catch at second slip.

Gotcha! Rickelton was pouched by Pant off Kuldeep's bowling, the first of the tweaker's three victims. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Openers get a move on

Post drinks, as the conditions eased, Markram and Ryan Rickelton were able to get a move on, finding boundaries easily.

Rickelton hit Mohammed Siraj for consecutive boundaries, one past third-man, followed by a confident punch down the ground.

Just as it seemed the WTC champion would go to tea without losing a wicket, Bumrah provided the breakthrough when he had Markram playing on.

The opener managed just five runs from 35 balls against the pacer, illustrating his struggle.

Taking control

Immediately after the break, Kuldeep made it a double-strike when he had Rickelton caught behind. Skipper Temba Bavuma and Tristan Stubbs then got the innings back on track through their 84-run alliance for the third wicket.

Against some tight bowling from the Indian tweakers on a surface that offered a degree of turn and bounce, both batters looked in control, having clear plans and took their side to 156 for two at lunch.

Stubbs used his feet against the spinners to disrupt their lengths and lofted Kuldeep and Ravindra Jadeja for maximums over the sightscreen.

However, in the final session, the Indian spinners got into the action, inducing false shots from the Proteas batters, none of whom converted their starts.

Bavuma tried to take on Jadeja and was caught at mid-off. Kuldeep then foxed Stubbs one short of his half-century by throwing a wide one, only for the batter to poke hard and edge it to Rahul in the cordon.

The left-arm wrist spinner then foxed Wiaan Mulder as well with a delivery that dipped and had him caught at mid-off trying to go for a booming drive.

In the final over of the day, Siraj struck with the second new ball, removing Tony de Zorzi, caught behind and ensured the hosts got their noses ahead.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS
Aiden Markram b Bumrah 38 *(81b, 5x4)*, Ryan Rickelton c Pant b Kuldeep 35 *(82b, 5x4)*, Tristan Stubbs c Rahul b Kuldeep 49 *(112b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Temba Bavuma c Jaiswal b Jadeja 41 *(92b, 5x4)*, Tony de Zorzi c Pant b Siraj 28 *(59b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Wian Mulder c Jaiswal b Kuldeep 13 *(18b, 2x4)*, Senuran Muthusamy (batting) 25 *(45b, 4x4)*, Kyle Verreynne (batting) 1 *(4b)*; Extras (b-8, lb-7, nb-2): 17; Total (for six wkts. in 81.5 overs): 247.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-82 (Markram, 26.5 overs), 2-82 (Rickelton, 27.2), 3-166 (Bavuma, 57.2), 4-187 (Stubbs, 63.1), 5-201 (Mulder, 67.2), 6-246 (de Zorzi, 81.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 17-6-38-1, Siraj 17.5-3-59-1, Nitish 4-0-21-0, Washington 14-3-36-0, Kuldeep 17-3-48-3, Jadeja 12-1-30-1.
Toss: South Africa.

Turning it on: Kuldeep's efforts helped keep the South Africa batters in check. RITU RAJ KONWAR

We stuck at it brilliantly, says ten Doeschate

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate praised Kuldeep Yadav's fine spell that gave the home team an early foothold in a must-win game against South Africa on the opening day of the second Test here on Saturday.

"I thought we stuck at it brilliantly. Just when the game was slipping away a couple of times, we managed to get a foothold back into the game," said ten Doeschate.

"Bumrah's wicket (Aiden Markram) before the first break and Kuldeep's straight after (Ryan Rickelton), and then that last wicket (Tony de Zorzi) at the end of the day probably makes it more or less an even day.

"I think it was just good old-fashioned attritional Test cricket and both sides gave a good account of themselves."

Commenting on Kuldeep's performance, he added: "We know Kuldeep's strike rate is phenomenal as it is, and that's why we're picking him.

"I thought everyone bowled well. But maybe the fact that he gets overspin, and with the red soil and a little bit more pace in the wicket, it was slightly more effective in the conditions today."

The former Dutch international felt that the bowlers did not allow any South African batters to get to big scores, which could come in handy later in the game.

"I thought the one thing we did really well was make sure that none of them got a big score.

"And that's one point of difference we can have in the second innings. I guess on the flip side of that, they all got in. So they didn't really lose wickets in a heap. But we bowled well and kept the pressure on for long periods.

"When scoring is not easy and when you can only score off the bad deliveries, it adds pressure to the batting unit".

'Better wicket, but score's gone nowhere'

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

South Africa's Tristan Stubbs doffed his hat to his IPL teammate (Delhi Capitals) Kuldeep Yadav for the way the left-arm wrist spinner dismissed him on the opening day of the second test here on Saturday.

"He beat me in the drift, that's sort of why my hands got away. I was not looking for one more (to get to 50)," said Stubbs, who was dismissed on 49.

Quite impressive

"Just the drift and my hands sort of followed it. On a day one pitch, that's probably how he's trying to get you out, but for him to bowl that first ball of a new spell, I thought it was quite impressive."

The 25-year-old also felt that his team's batters should have done better in covering their starts after none of them managed a half-century so far.

"I definitely think it's a better wicket for batting, you can bat time, but you look up and the scoreboard's sort of gone nowhere," added Stubbs, who was the highest scorer for his side so far.

"I do think they bowl quite well, the seamers especially, just kept bowling straight lines, attack the stumps, and they sort of bowl to contain, so I think they bowl nicely, but all of us had opportunities, and if you look at it, no one kicked on, so we can take that on ourselves."

Semifinalists play it safe, over to the tie-breaks now

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

They starred in Uzbekistan's greatest moment in chess.

At the Olympiad in 2022, Javokhir Sindrarov and Nodirbek Yakubboev played significant roles to take Uzbekistan to a stunning title, after starting out as the 14th seed at Mamallapuram, near Chennai. Three years later, in another Indian coastal town, the two are making waves in another major event.

They have ensured that there would be one player from Uzbekistan in the final of the Chess World Cup. The world will have to wait for another day to find out who that would be.

For the second time in as many days, Sindarov and Yakubboev played out a quiet draw at Resort Rio. The two young men not only know each other so well, they also work with the same coach. So it wasn't surprising that neither wanted to stretch too much in the classical games.

Battle of Uzbeks: Yakubboev and Sindarov settled for a 31-move draw. FIDE

On this day it was a Four Knights Game, which reached an equal bishop-and-pawn ending. They split the point after 31 moves – and in just under an hour and a half – to set up Sunday's tie-breaks.

The other semifinal, between China's Wei Yi and Russia's Andrey Esipenko will also be decided by the tie-breaks.

As was the case in the first game, Wei and Esipenko fought hard before they signed peace.

But it wasn't as eventful as their first game, though. Wei, at No. 7 the highest seed left in the competition, adopted Petrov's Defence, and once again handled the pressure put on his younger rival rather well. He may have had some trouble with time too, but the position was safe enough, and the game was drawn in 37 moves, by repetition.

The results (semifinals, game two): Andrey Esipenko (Rus) 1 drew with Wei Yi (Chn) 1; Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) 1 drew with Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb) 1.

Cobolli's heroics take Italy to summit clash

Associated Press
BOLOGNA (ITALY)

Two-time defending champion Italy reached the Davis Cup final after Flavio Cobolli beat Zizou Bergs of Belgium 6-3, 6-7(5), 7-6(15) after saving seven match points in a dramatic semifinal to give his team an unassailable 2-0 lead.

Spain awaits

In the final, Italy will meet Spain, a 2-1 winner over Germany after Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martinez edged out Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

World No. 3 Alexander Zverev levelled for Germany with a 7-6(2), 7-6(5) win over Jaume Munar after Pablo Carreno Busta beat Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4, 7-6(6) to give Spain the lead.

Earlier, after wasting six match points of his own, Cobolli finally got Italy over the line. He ripped off his shirt and celebrated with his teammates and eventually went to comfort Bergs, who was consoled by his team as he cried in his chair.

In the first match, Matteo Berrettini beat Raphael Collignon 6-3, 6-4.

Home comfort: Cobolli and Berrettini's wins sealed Italy's spot in the final. AFP

Chelsea steps it up, Liverpool stumbles; Barca hammers Bilbao

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Troubled Liverpool's woeful season hit a new low with a shocking 3-0 home defeat against Nottingham Forest, while Chelsea won 2-0 at Burnley to step up its Premier League title challenge on Saturday.

Pedro Neto put the Blues ahead just before the interval at Turf Moor and Enzo Fernandez netted in the closing stages.

Barcelona made a triumphant return to its rebuilt Camp Nou stadium on Saturday following two-and-a-half years in exile with a 4-0 win over Athletic Bilbao to go joint top of LaLiga.

Ferran Torres netted a brace after Robert Lewandowski opened the scoring. Fermin Lopez also struck in a comfortable win against Athletic.

Champion Bayern Munich raced from two goals down to crush visitors Freiburg 6-2 in the Bundesliga on Saturday, with Michael Olise scoring twice and setting up three more goals, to maintain their unbeaten run and lead the title race.

Smartly done: Neto's header flies past the Burnley goalkeeper for Chelsea's opener. AP

The results:

Premier League: Burnley 0 lost to Chelsea 2 (Neto 37, Fernandez 88); Bournemouth 2 (Tavernier 69-pen, Unal 81) drew with West Ham 2 (Wilson 12, 35); Brighton 2 (Welbeck 71, Hinshelwood 84) bt Brentford 1 (Thiago 29-pen); Fulham 1 (Jimenez 84) bt Sunderland 0; Liverpool 0 lost to Nottingham Forest 3 (Murillo 33, Savona 46, Gibbs-White 78); Wolves 0 lost to Crystal Palace 2 (Munoz 63, Pino 69).

Bundesliga: Wolfsburg 1 (Vavro 57) lsot to Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Hofmann 9, Tapsoba 24, Tillman 33); Bayern Munich 6 (Karl 22, Olise 45+2, 84, Upamecano 55, Kane 60, Jackson 78) bt Freiburg 2 (Suzuki 12, Manzambi 17). Borussia Dortmund 3 (Can 34-pen, Beier 41, Adeyemi 89) drew with Stuttgart 3 (Undav 47, 70, 90+1), Heidenheim 0 lost to Borussia M'Gladbach 3 (Diks 45+1-pen, Tabakovic 55, Machino 76); Augsburg 1 (Kade 76) bt Hamburg 0.

LaLiga: Alaves 0 lost to Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 55-pen). Barcelona 4 (Lewandowski 4, Torres 45+3, 90, Lopez 48) bt Athletic Club 0.

INBRIEF

Mahit clinches 50m rifle 3 Positions gold

India's Mahit Sandhu clinched the women's 50m rifle 3 Positions gold for her fourth medal at the Summer Deaflympic Games in Tokyo. Mahit totalled 456.0 after 45 shots to bag her second gold of the Games. Mahit also broke both the Deaf Qualification World Record and the Deaflympics world record on her way to the final.

Henry and Chapman star as NZ completes clean sweep

Mark Chapman guided New Zealand to a four-wicket win over West Indies in the third ODI, and a 3-0 series sweep, in Hamilton on Saturday.

The scores: West Indies 161 in 36.2 overs (Chase 38, Henry 4/43) lost to New Zealand 162/6 in 30.3 overs (Chapman 64, Bracewell 40 n.o.). **Toss**: WI. **PoM**: Henry. **PoS**: Jamieson.

India begins with a draw in U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers

India started its 2026 AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign with a 1-1 draw against Palestine in Ahmedabad on Saturday. Shubam Poonia gave India the lead in the 45th minute before Amir Jomah scored for Palestine in the 74th. India plays Chinese Taipei on November 26.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs South Africa: 2nd Test, day 2, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 9 a.m.
Formula One: Las Vegas GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
Chess World Cup: FIDE YouTube channel, 3 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
Rising Stars Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 8 p.m.

Australia powers to a stunning eight-wicket win

Makeshift opener Travis' scintillating ton turns the Test on its head after England had nosed ahead with a first innings lead; Boland and Starc engineer a collapse as the visitors crumble

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
PERTH

Makeshift opener Travis Head smacked an explosive 69-ball century to power Australia to victory in a high-octane first Ashes Test on Saturday as England meekly surrendered.

Chasing 205 to win, Head slammed 123 as the host romped home on day two by eight wickets in an electric start to the five-match series. Marnus Labuschagne was unbeaten on 51 and Steve Smith two.

Head's heroics came on the back of a blistering spell from marauding pace pair Scott Boland and Mitchell Starc after lunch that sparked a stunning England collapse.

The tourists were cruising at 65 for one and building an ominous second-innings lead, but Boland and Starc left them reeling with four wickets in as many overs. A ruthless Boland accounted for Ben Duckett (28), Ollie Pope (33) and Harry Brook (0) in the space of 11 balls, then two deliveries later Starc sent Joe Root packing for eight.

When Starc removed skipper Ben Stokes (2), England was flailing at 88-6 and the veteran paceman had bagged a 10-wicket haul for only the third time after his first innings seven for 58, a career-best.

England was partially rescued by a crucial 50-run stand between Gus Atkinson (37) and Brydon Carse (20) before being rolled for 164 at tea.

Usman Khawaja again failed to show as opener as he battles back stiffness, with Australia signalling its intent by sending in Head.

Head, who has opened nine times previously in Test cricket, quickly got into his destructive rhythm, crunching some lovely boundaries including big sixes off Carse and Mark Wood. He brought up his half-century in 36 balls, passing 4,000 Test runs in the process.

Marauder: Head's explosive 69-ball century took the wind out of England's sails. GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 172.
Australia — 1st innings: Jake Weatherald lbw b Archer 0, Marnus Labuschagne b Archer 9, Steve Smith c Brook b Carse 17, Usman Khawaja c Smith b Carse 2, Travis Head c Carse b Stokes 21, Cameron Green c Smith b Stokes 24, Alex Carey c Carse b Stokes 26, Mitchell Starc c Carse b Stokes 12, Nathan Lyon c Duckett b Carse 4, Scott Boland c Brook b Stokes 0, Brendan Doggett (not out) 7; Extras (lb-8, nb-2): 10; Total (in 45.2 overs): 132.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-28, 3-30, 4-31, 5-76, 6-83, 7-118, 8-121, 9-121.
England bowling: Archer 9-4-11-2, Atkinson 12-5-24-0, Wood 8-1-21-0, Carse 10.2-1-45-3, Stokes 6-1-23-5.
England — 2nd innings: Zak Crawley c & b Starc 0, Ben Duckett c Smith b Boland 28, Ollie Pope c Carey b Boland 33, Joe Root b Starc 8, Harry Brook c Khawaja b Boland 0, Ben Stokes c Smith b Starc 2, Jamie Smith c Carey b Doggett 15, Gus Atkinson c Doggett b Boland 37, Brydon Carse c Carey b Doggett 20, Jofra Archer c Smith b Doggett 5, Mark Wood (not out) 4; Extras (b-1, lb-11): 12; Total (in 34.4 overs): 164.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-65, 3-76, 4-76, 5-76, 6-88, 7-104, 8-154, 9-160.
Australia bowling: Starc 12-1-55-3, Boland 11.4-2-33-4, Doggett 9-0-51-3, Green 2-0-13-0.
Australia — 2nd innings: Travis Head c Pope b Carse 123, Jake Weatherald c Duckett b Carse 23, Marnus Labuschagne (not out) 51, Steve Smith (not out) 2; Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-4): 6; Total (for two wkts. in 28.2 overs): 205.
Fall of wickets: 1-75, 2-192.
England bowling: Archer 8-0-45-0, Atkinson 9-1-61-0, Carse 5.2-0-44-2, Wood 3-0-23-0, Stokes 2-0-18-0, Root 1-0-12-0.
PoM: Starc.
Australia won by eight wickets.
Second Test: Dec. 4 to 8, Brisbane.

Lakshya shocks Chen, moves into the final

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

India's Lakshya Sen stormed into the men's singles final of the Australian Open Super 500 with a gritty three-game win over World No. 6 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei here on Saturday.

Lakshya showed immense mental toughness to recover from an opening game setback and outlast the second seed 17-21, 24-22, 21-16 in 86 minutes.

The 24-year-old will face Japan's Yushi Tanaka, a 21-18, 21-15 winner over Chinese Taipei's fifth seed Lin Chun-Yi, in Sunday's title clash.

Shadow looms over junior hockey women's trip to World Cup

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The Indian women's hockey team is all set to leave for the Junior World Cup in Santiago, Chile, on Sunday amidst a cloud of uncertainty over the conduct of one of its coaches. Hockey India made it categorically clear that there was no question of a change in personnel accompanying the girls for the important assignment.

With a coach associated with the team under the scanner for 'sexual misconduct' from the Sports Ministry, sources said Hockey India was initially conflicted on his continuation with the team for the major competition. There was even talk of getting senior team chief coach Harendra Singh ready and his visa process expedited as back-up but the idea was eventually dropped.

HI officials denied any directions from the ministry to withdraw the person. "As of now, there is no formal or informal complaint with HI. We have not been directed anything by the ministry. Why should we replace a coach at the last minute without any reason," HI secretary general Bhola Nath Singh countered.

Sources said HI president Dilip Tirkey had called upon the federation's committee on sexual harassment to look into the matter. "Dilip was shocked at the allegations and asked the committee to talk to the players about it. All the World Cup-bound girls were spoken to individually and the coach has their approval," sources confirmed.

The Sports Ministry had initiated action after being made aware of alleged frequent visitations by a player to the coach's room at irregular hours by the complainant during the team's foreign tours to Europe and Australia earlier this year.

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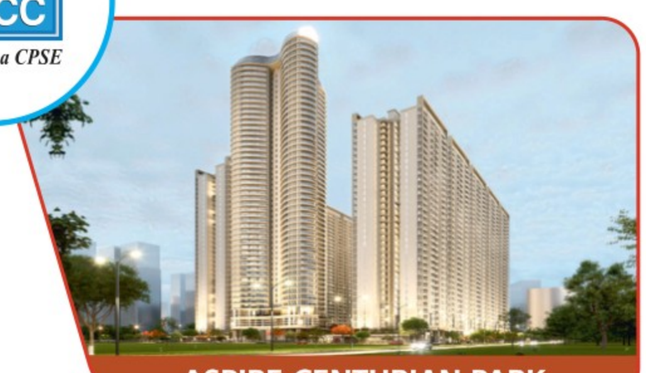
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A BG-BGE

Leko praises Arjun, says he always comes up with surprises

The Hungarian player feels the Indian star got a bit unlucky with the pairings at the World Cup; expresses happiness at being recognised by the people in Goa

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

Big talent: Leko rates Arjun very highly and says his moves are difficult to anticipate. FIDE

Peter Leko knew chess was big in India. He didn't reckon it was big enough for people to recognise him from just his voice.

The former challenger to the World championship is now one of the most perceptive commentators in chess and is admired for his lucid analyses. "While on a visit to Fort Aguada near here, I was surprised when two young men came up to me and asked if I was Peter Leko," Leko tells *The Hindu*. "They told me they recognised me by my voice."

It wasn't his voice that took Leko here in the first place, though. He came here as a participant at the World Cup. He made it to the fourth round, where he was beaten by the second seed Arjun Erigaisi; he was the first to take the Indian to the tie-breaks.

Arjun, however, was eliminated by China's Wei Yi in the quarterfinals. "I was very impressed with the way he had been playing, and I know the whole India was rooting for Arjun," says the former World No. 4 who tied the 2004 World title match with Vladimir Kramnik. "He had been handling the pressure well, but I think he was a bit unlucky with the pairings."

The Hungarian rates Arjun highly. "I have done so much commentary on his game and his moves have been the most difficult for me to anticipate," says Leko, a former second of Viswanathan Anand. "He always comes up with some surprises."

About the early exit of the other top Indian seeds, D. Gukesh and R. Praggnanandhaa, Leko says: "It happens at the World Cup. Normally the favourites have tremendous pressure because the expectations are very high.

"One should also acknowledge that all the players here are very strong and extremely motivated because this is kind of a chance of a lifetime."

Norris grabs 'stressful' Las Vegas pole

Agence France-Presse
LAS VEGAS

Lando Norris maintained his charge towards a maiden Formula One crown on Friday by grabbing his third pole position in as many races at the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

The British McLaren driver clocked the fastest time of 1m 47.934s in slippery conditions. Red Bull's reigning World champion Max Verstappen was second fastest (1m 48.257s) with Williams' Carlos Sainz third.

Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri will start fifth after finishing more than a second off the pace. "That was stressful, stressful as hell," a relieved Norris said after clinching pole.

In wet, treacherous conditions on the Sin City street circuit, the 26-year-old Norris produced a dazzling flying lap to snatch pole with three blistering sectors.

"I felt like the first few sectors were good, but it's so slippery out there. As soon as you hit the curb a little bit, you snap one way and then the other way," he added.

India-A goes down to Pakistan in semifinals

Sports Bureau

Pakistan, riding on Muhammad Asif's brilliance, outplayed India-A 3-1 in a battle between former champions, to storm into the final of the World Cup of snooker in Muscat on Saturday. Although India started well with ace cueist Pankaj Advani winning the first frame in the best-of-five frame clash, Asif had other ideas as he came up with a splendid show to dash India's hopes.

The results: Semifinals: **Pakistan bt India-A 3-1** (Asjad Iqbal lost to Pankaj Advani 21-85; Muhammad Asif bt Brijesh Damani 120(77)-23; Asif & Iqbal bt Advani & Damani 75(46)-47; Asif bt Advani 73(61)-9); **Quarterfinals:** India-A bt France 3-0.

Magileto clinches the Bangalore Turf Club Trophy

RACING

BENGALURU: Aman Altaf Hussain-trained Magileto (Trevor up) won the Bangalore Turf Club Trophy (1,200m), the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (Nov 22).

The winner is owned by Mr. Soloman F. Sopher, Miss Jessy D'Cunha, Miss Veera Douza, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & Mr. Anil Saraf. Trainer Prasanna Kumar, who won three races on the day.

THE RESULTS

1. BEGINNERS PLATE (1,100M): QUANTUM (G. Vivek) 1, Monumental (Trevor) 2, Global Dominance (Suraj) 3 and Portieux (Shreyas S) 4. 9, 1-3/4 and 1/2. 1m 06.64s. Rs. 22 (w), 11 and 28 (p), SHP: 53, THP: 47, FP: 174, Q: 113, Trinella: 157/43, Exacta: 666/367. Favourite: Global Dominance.
Owners: Mr. M. Eshwer & M/S. Cherie Sports Pvt Ltd. Trainer: M. Eshwer.

2. SHIVANASAMUDRA FALLS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,300M): EXCEED (J. Chinoy) 1, Knotty Cruise (G. Vivek) 2, Amalure (Sai Kiran) 3 and Sustaining Grace (Vinod Shinde) 4. Not run: Husanara, Big Sauce and N R I Millennium. Hd, 7 and 3-3/4. 1m 19.32s. Rs. 24 (w), 10, 13 and 10 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 40, FP: 114, Q: 43, Trinella: 77/37, Exacta: 352/338. Favourite: Amalure.
Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mrs. Rina Mahindra, Mr. Sp. Thirunavukkarasu & Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

3. PHAR LAP PLATE (1,100M): IMPERADOR (Suraj) 1, Aphelion (Sai Kiran) 2, Zayana (Pavan) 3 and Fiery Love (Mukesh K) 4. 1, 1-3/4 and 5-1/4. 1m 07.82s. Rs. 12 (w), 10, 13 and 15 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 26, FP: 38, Q: 38, Trinella: 139/77, Exacta: 345/98. Favourite: Imperador.
Owners: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP, Mr. M.P. Vikram, Mr. A.S. Karthik Chandra, Mr. Ronak J Kimmane & Mr. Ananth Iyengar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

4. Y.S. SURENDER MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600M): REFRESHMENT (Mukesh K) 1, Alfonsine (Suraj) 2, Sicyon (Trevor) 3 and Alamgir (Arvind K) 4. Lnk, 3/4 and 3/4. 1m 36.69s. Rs. 73 (w), 19, 14 and 11 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 41, FP: 206, Q: 108, Trinella: 240/135, Exacta: 1,771/1,470. Favourite: Alfonsine.
Owners: Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal, Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar & Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Dean Stephens & Mr. Balam Mohla. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

5. BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200M): MAGILETO (Trevor) 1, Siege Courageous (Suraj) 2, Knotty Charmer (I. Chisty) 3 and Aldgate (Antony) 4. 2-3/4, 4-1/4 and Snk. 1m 10.93s. Rs. 21 (w), 10, 10 and 11 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 30, FP: 37, Q: 18, Trinella: 62/52, Exacta: 291/202. Favourite: Siege Courageous. Owners: Mr. Soloman F. Sopher, Miss. Jessy D'Cunha, Miss. Veera Douza, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & Mr. Anil Saraf. Trainer: Aman Altaf Hussain.

6. SPARK OF GOLD TROPHY (1,200M): RIEKO (Suraj) 1, Del Aviz (Antony) 2, Regal Reality (Trevor) 3 and Invincible (Angad) 4. 2-3/4, Lnk and 3-3/4. 1m 11.72s. Rs. 17 (w), 10, 15 and 10 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 51, FP: 70, Q: 50, Trinella: 77/22, Exacta: 849/990. Favourite: Rieko. Owner: Mr. P. Arun Kumar. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

7. SHIVANASAMUDRA FALLS PLATE (DIV. I), (1,300M): SASSY SARAH (N. Darshan) 1, Contessina (Suraj) 2, Stalingrad (Pavan) 3 and Blind Faith (Siddaraju P) 4. 3, 1/2 and 3/4. 1m 20.41s. Rs. 39 (w), 14, 15 and 10 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 44, FP: 134, Q: 66, Trinella: 154/78, Exacta: 812/472. Favourite: Stalingrad.
Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Harish Nayak & Mr. H.J. Balram. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

Jackpot: Rs. 1,429 (316 tkts); Runner-up: 101 (1,919 tkts); Treble (i): 270 (276 tkts); (ii): 197 (516 tkts).

Sotomayor urges Indian athletes to prioritise discipline

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

> All the conditions are ideal. There is technology now, there is support now. All you need is discipline

High jump world record holder Javier Sotomayor on Saturday said discipline and mindset, not facilities alone, decide the success of an athlete, and urged Indian youngsters to do the same.

The Cuban legend said India is currently at the right stage to produce world class athletes, but added the drive has to come from within.

The 1992 Olympic champion, whose record of 2.45m still stands, said there is no fixed formula to break records. He insisted that time is ripe for India to make a breakthrough in athletics.

"I frankly don't have the answer to how someone can break the record, but if at all a record should be broken, it should be now," Sotomayor said.

"All the conditions are ideal. There is technology now, there is support now. All you need is discipline. Once you have the discipline, you can have the result," he said.

He highlighted discipline and mental strength as the two non-negotiables for any athlete seeking world-class consistency.

"It depends on the person, it changes from person to person.

"The first thing is the mentality and then all the support comes in. The structure, the training – all that comes in later," Sotomayor said.

"It really depends on the athlete and how they want to excel."

The 58-year-old reminded that elite performance is built over years of commitment, and external motivation can only spark, not sustain, a career.

"Athletes are not made in a day, or with a few words of mine. It takes them years," he said.

"I can just give them a slight push or good advice, but after that it is their own journey. A word of encouragement helps."

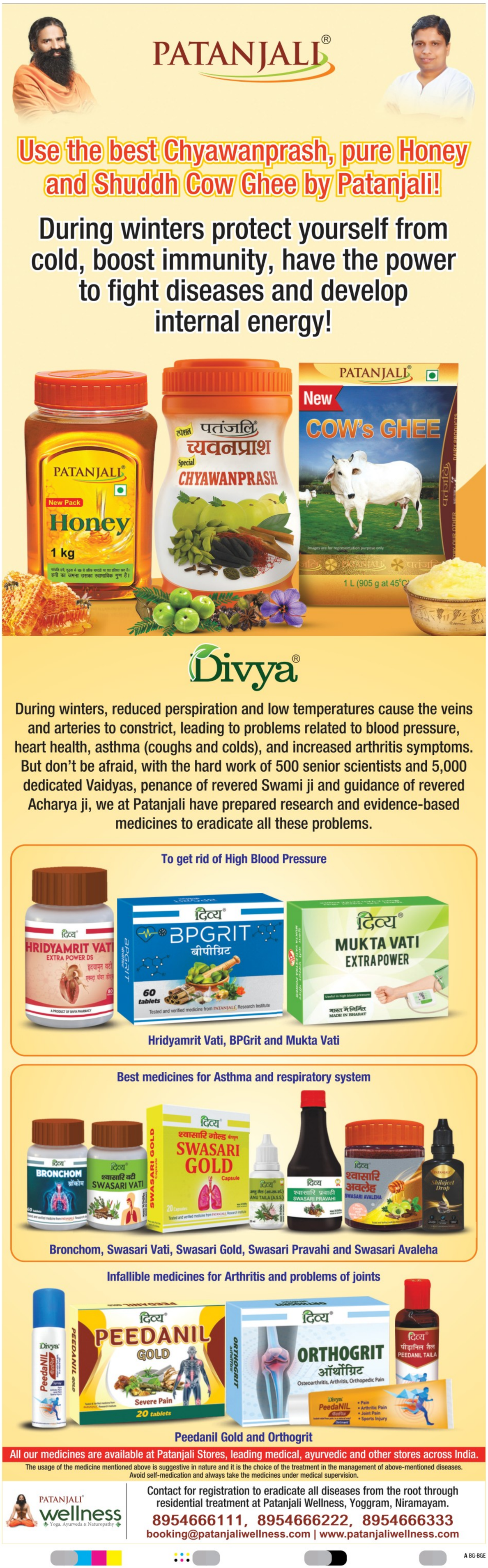
BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Chanakya shines in Chikkamagalur District's win

Chanakya (27 points) helped Chikkamagalur District defeat Koramangala SC in the Association Cup men's basketball championships here.

The results:
Men: Chikkamagalur District 80 (Chanakya 27, Anik 14) bt Koramangala 50 (Shivam 25, Rina 12).
Chamrajnagar District 66 (Sudesh 19) bt Orion's 35 (Mohith 10).
Bangalore Sporting 58 (Aebel 17) bt Lakshyan 24 (Kevin 11).
Appaiah 87 (Prabhu 18) bt Chikkaballapur District 66 (Venugopal 20).
GST & Customs 69 (Naveen 19) bt Halasur 40 (Roopesh 10).
Women: Vijayapura District 59 (Sakshi 18) bt MCHS 53 (Livdeep 18).
Mandya District 49 (Manasa 17) bt YMMA 20.
JSC 64 (Taarushee 16) bt Dharwad District 'A' 34 (Deepika 17).
Bharath 47 (Shrishti 11) bt Chamrajnagar District 17.

Hoysala defeats Friends

Hoysala HC defeated Friends HC 3-1 in the KSHA 'C' Division hockey league.

The results:
Hoysala 3 (Ritesh 10, 16, Surya 44) bt Friends 1 (Sharan 48).
Gameon 2 (M. Karthik 27, Avinash 44) bt Dynamites United 0.